

Hafa Adai!

Kagman High registration drive nets 62 new voters. **PAGE 2**
Warning out on measles outbreak in PH. **PAGE 5**

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVIII, Issue No. 75

www.saipantribune.com

TUESDAY APRIL 17, 2018

www.facebook.com/saipantribune

75¢

USCIS won't set aside denied permits

ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has no plans to set aside CW permit applications that are not included in a planned lottery.

In a statement to *Saipan Tribune*, USCIS said that they would not "rack" CW permit applications as previously requested by Delegate Gregorio Kili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) in a letter.

To rack denied applications is to set aside permits while retaining its

See USCIS on Page 4

Vehicle slams into patrol car

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A car drifted into an opposite lane of the road and collided with a police patrol car in As Perdido yesterday morning.

day morning.

The driver of a four-door Toyota Corolla was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center for minor injuries. He was later released after

See VEHICLE on Page 4

'NMI can't afford to close beaches'

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Two world-famous tourist destinations in neighboring Southeast Asian countries—Boracay in the Philippines and Koh Phi Leh in Maya Bay, Thailand—will close down for several months due to environmental concerns.

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion agrees with the decision but

See NMI on Page 4



Chris Concepcion, the managing director of the Marianas Visitors Authority.
BEA CABRERA



United to cut ties with Cape Air in Micronesia

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

United Airlines would be severing ties with Cape Air services in

Micronesia, following the internal announcement of discontinuing services to Rota from Guam and Saipan.

In response to *Saipan Tribune* inquiries, United Airlines said in a

statement for attribution to corporate communications that they would be ending their "relationship with Cape Air service in Micronesia," including

See UNITED on Page 4

ROADSIDE WAVING

The Division of Youth Services held a roadside waving on Beach Road last Friday to spread awareness of child abuse prevention. Dozens, including lawmakers, joined the division in the awareness campaign.

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Procrastinators rejoice: There's still time to file your taxes.

PAGE 13



WORLD

Syria's allies say American airstrikes undercut political resolution to Syrian war.

PAGE 16



LIFE & STYLE

James Comey thinks it's possible the Russians have compromising information on Donald Trump.

PAGE 20



SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



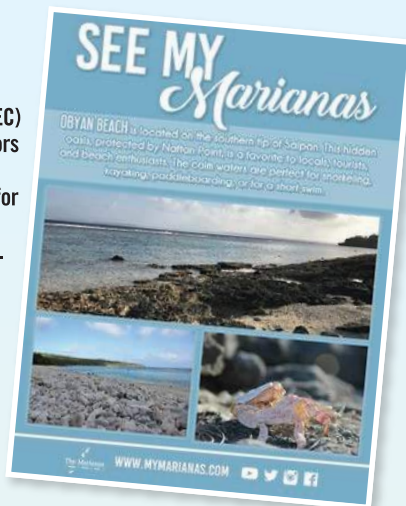
GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Tourism Month Graphic Arts Design Contest

Are you a student with graphic design skills? Marianas Tourism Education Council (MTEC) and the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) would love to see your ideas for promoting special places in The Marianas.

MTEC and the MVA are holding a Tourism Month 2018 Graphic Arts Design Contest titled "See My Marianas" for CNMI students in grades 6-12. The deadline to submit entries is 4:30 p.m. on May 11, 2018, and winners will be announced at the Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival on May 19.



Submissions must be an original digital design with the words "See My Marianas" featuring a site/location in The Marianas that the artist would encourage people to visit. Entries should include the name of the site/location, and brief 1-4 sentence description of the site, and the following: www.mymarianas.com and Facebook icon with the address facebook.com/mymarianas and Instagram icon with the address [Instagram.com/themarianas](https://instagram.com/themarianas).

Submissions may be made by mailing to info@mymarianas.com or posting on Facebook at My Marianas (www.facebook.com/mymarianas/) with the hashtag #mymarianasdesign. Entries should include student name and grade. All entries must be accompanied by a permission release form, and winners will be contacted via Facebook or email, however they submit.

Prizes for 1st place are \$150 cash + \$150 Taste of the Marianas tokens, with additional cash and Taste token prizes also awarded for 2nd to 5th place.

Entries will be judged on the following: adherence to contest guidelines, artistic execution, accuracy of site/location name and description, emotional response/does it create a feeling of enticement to see the site/location. For contest guidelines and a permission release form, visit www.mymarianas.com. For more information, contact MVA Community Projects Assistant Demalyn Pagarao at dpagarao@mymarianas.com or 670.664.3200/01. By entering, contestants agree to allow MTEC/MVA to use their name, image, and entry for promotional purposes.

Upcoming Events

May Tourism Month

- 20th Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden
May 5, 12, 19, & 26
American Memorial Park



A bi-weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority

Tourism is everybody's business.

The Marianas

| Saipan | Tinian | Rota |



www.mymarianas.com

Local

Kagman High registration drive nets 62 new voters

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission's voter registration drive at the Kagman High School library last Friday was able to attract 62 persons, most of them students.

A total of 58 were new voters while four were re-registrations, CEC executive director Julita Villagomez disclosed yesterday.

There was another voter

registration drive during the Northern Marianas College's Charter Day celebration last Friday and the CEC was able to register 33 people.

As of yesterday, they were still processing those 33 registered voters, she added.

As of yesterday, there were a total of 16,812 registered voters in the CNMI, including those who registered at Kagman High School, Villagomez said.

CEC election register clerk Robin Sablan said that, al-

though they were expecting to register 200 persons at Kagman High School and netted only 62, they still consider the number a good turnout.

"Ten persons a day is a good turnout," Sablan said, adding that they are planning to hold registrations at Tanapag Junior High School to get those senior high school students studying in Kagman but residing in Tanapag, As Matuis, and San Roque.

Sablan said they are also planning to hold registration

drives at Saipan Southern High School in Koblerville and at the Marianas High School in Susupe.

CEC is targeting to register students who will be turning 18 years old on or before the Nov. 6 general election.

CEC is reminding students and members of the community to bring a copy of their birth certificate as certified by the court, a valid U.S. passport, or naturalization documents to show proof of their citizenship.



ENJOY UNLIMITED HOME INTERNET WITH NO ONLINE DATA CAPS

688-CARE | 488-CARE
docomopacific.com

*Acceptable use policy applies.

docomo pacific
Better Together

The Department of Public Works, through the Energy Division Office, will be holding the 2018 Tinian Energy Awareness Campaign on Saturday, April 21, from 8:30am to 11:30am at the Tinian Youth Center.

Through the Energy, Education, Efficiency and Conservation Program, DPW will be distributing six LED light bulbs at the Tinian Youth Center. Items will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis and while supplies lasts.

This event will provide the residential community tips on how to conserve energy at homes and how to save money using efficient products that carry the Energy Star label and educate the community on the importance of energy conservation.

This promotion is only available to residential consumers who must provide the most recent utility billing and valid identification. Residents must be present to avail of this promotion. If an account holder is unable to make it, he/she must provide an authorization letter, the authorized individual cannot be a person who is also receiving for themselves. Residents whose landlord is on a utility billing must also provide the lease agreement.

For questions or information regarding this promotion, contact Maile Iakopo at 664-4480/4.

Funding opportunity for this project is possible through a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Energy—State Energy Program. (PR)

Military training at former golf course, FDM

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at the former Adm. Nimitz Golf Course in Barrigada during the following dates and times:

■ April 16 and 18 from noon to 6pm

■ April 17 from noon to 8pm

The military will also conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla on April 19-20, from 11am to 11:55pm.

These types of trainings are designed to enhance the readiness of military personnel. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the training.

The public should be advised that routine helicopter training often accompanied with the use of blanks can occur throughout the week in areas of the former Nimitz golf course and Andersen south.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island. (PR)

Energy awareness campaign on Tinian



TRIPLE J SAYS Yes!

***0 DOWN, 2.9% FINANCING, EASY TRADE IN**






**2018
CX-5 SPORT**

LIMITED TIME ONLY!
24,995

OR AS LOW AS **\$175 PER PAYCHECK**



**2018
CX-3 SPORT**

LIMITED TIME ONLY!
\$19,995

OR AS LOW AS **\$140 PER PAYCHECK**



Customers First



*On approved credit (OAC). Some conditions apply. Doc fees and registration not included. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Vehicles may not be exactly as shown. See dealer for more details. Maximum credit card payment toward vehicle purchase is 2,500. While supplies last. CX-3 Sport – total price is \$19,995. Financed at 2.9% APR for 60 monthly payments of \$304.64 or \$140 per paycheck based on a 15% down-payment and 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred price is \$18,278.40. CX-5 Sport – total price is \$24,995. Financed at 2.9% APR for 60 monthly payments of \$380.81 or \$175 per paycheck based on a 15% down-payment and 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred price is \$22,848.60.

TRIPLE J Mazda

Beach Road, Chalan LauLau

Open: Mon-Fri: 8am to 6pm • Sat: 8am to 5pm

Email: autosales@triplejsaipan.com

Tel: 234-7133 / 234-3051

WWW.TRIPLEJSAIPAN.COM

PCF Fellows get up close with the CNMI government

The latest batch of Pacific Century Fellows Marianas Chapter immersed themselves in the inner workings of the CNMI government last Wednesday.

The fellows' daylong tour of government agencies brought them to the Office of the Attorney General, Legislature, the Office of the Governor's conference room, a meeting with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, the Judiciary, and the Commonwealth Development Authority.

In their meeting with the Commonwealth's first

elected attorney general, Edward E. Manibusan, the 13 members of the cohort were briefed on the nature of the office and the lawyers that comprise the OAG.

Manibusan said his office is the *de facto* "largest law firm" on the island and advises the governor and all departments and divisions under the Executive Branch.

Next stop was the Legislature where the fellows met with members of the House of Representatives and the Senate. There, they listened to lawmakers talk about their

respective bills and other important issues facing the Commonwealth, among them the upcoming expiration of the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program.

After the meet-and-greet with lawmakers, the fellows found themselves at the Governor's Office conference room where they sat in during an impromptu meeting among members of the first and second Mariana Islands Political Status Commission.

Former Washington representative Pete A. Tenorio, former House speaker Oscar

Rasa, and CDA executive director Manny Sablan represented the first commission, while making up the second were Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog's chief of staff John Oliver Gonzales, former Senate president Pete P. Reyes, former Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality administrator Frank Rabauliman, and Dr. Elizabeth Rechebei.

Unlike the first commission, which negotiated the Covenant with the United States, the second one is tasked to check the pulse of the people whether a reevaluation of the current relationship with the U.S. needs to be reexamined or tweaked.

The group was joined for lunch by Torres, who broke bread with the fellows and talked about controversial issues like his reasons for vetoing a bill that would have made the Northern Marianas Trades Institute a government entity and why he supports the Kagman Community Health Center's independence.

Next was a session with Supreme Court Justice Alejandro Castro and Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Castro spoke briefly about the efforts to mitigate the mold infestation at the Guma Hustisia. He also talked about his career.

Kim-Tenorio discussed the CNMI Drug Court.

She said the program is a win-win situation for both the government and the ones being rehabilitated as it only costs \$7,500 a year to treat a

participant of the Drug Court, while the government spends \$31,000 a year for each healthy inmate.

The fellows then met up again with Sablan at his office in Oleai and found out how the government economic development agency has finally recovered from the bad debts it doled out in the '90s. The main engines for CDA's recovery are its microloan program (\$35,000) and the State Small Business Credit Initiative or SSBCI.

The day ended with an informal meeting with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' former chief of staff Matthew Deleon Guerrero at the TSL Plaza in Garapan. The talk centered around the islands' future as the fellows took turns picking the mind of Deleon Guerrero, now an adviser to Torres and instructor at the Northern Marianas College. (*Saipan Tribune*)

USCIS

From Page 1

chronological order, meaning if additional slots open up, the first permit submitted would still first be processed.

"...USCIS will not hold any petitions and we will inform the public regarding any changes in legislation that would affect CNMI-only transitional workers," said a representative of the federal agency, adding that only applications submitted from April 2, 2018, to April 13, 2018, are included in the lottery.

"Those petitions not selected in the lottery will be rejected and USCIS will return all filing fees," the statement added.

USCIS set the CW cap for fiscal year 2019 at 4,999, almost half of the previous fiscal year's cap. If additional slots were to open for fiscal

year 2019, applications must be resubmitted to USCIS.

USCIS had announced that they would be using a lottery system in approving CW permits, since it has received sufficient applications to meet the cap since they started accepting petitions last April 2. The federal agency cited fairness in the selection process as their reason to using the lottery system.

"I sent a third letter to the [USCIS] secretary pleading with her to reverse her decision [on the CW cap]," Sablan said in a press conference yesterday, adding that when former president Barack Obama was in office, he was able to secure a CW cap reduction of only one slot.

He said the massive reduction in the CW cap is unnecessary and harmful while referring to USCIS' decision to utilize a lottery system as a "slap to the face" of the people

of the Marianas.

"It is not required that [USCIS reduce the CW cap to] 4,999. They can reduce [the cap] by one today [and still be compliant with the law]," he said. "But this is the Trump administration," adding that the Trump administration does not take too kindly to immigrants.

Saipan Tribune has yet to procure a copy of Sablan's third letter to USCIS.

US House prepping to act on S. 2325

Sablan reiterated at the press conference that S. 2325, U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski's (R-AK) bill that extends the CW program for another 10 years while bringing up the cap to 13,000 for fiscal year 2019, was generally accepted by the U.S. Senate.

"The bill is getting better chances at passing the Senate. At the same time, we are working with the House in expecta-

tion that it would come down and [we] would get it out as fast as possible," he said.

"We are...making sure there are no hiccups to get this done as soon as possible once it passes the Senate. It is a very timely, very urgent bill," he added.

When asked about U.S. President Donald J. Trump's possible reception of the bill, Sablan believes that he would support the bill.

"...The bill is the work of bipartisan, bicameral congressional offices. I don't have any reason to think that President Trump would not support it," he said, despite recognizing the fact that this administration is "not very friendly to immigrants."

"This bill is a program just for the territories so we would treat it as such and get it signed," he said, adding that he also relied on Murkowski's previous assurance that the U.S. President would support the bill.

VEHICLE

From Page 1

being treated.

The driver was given a traffic citation, according to Department of Public Safety spokesperson Jacqueline Rae Shepard.

The driver of the patrol car, a male police officer, was not injured, Shepard said.

Shepard said both vehicles had extensive damage on the front and front right side.

It was at 6:15am when a police officer notified DPS dispatch of a car accident involving a patrol vehicle in As Perdido.

According to the investigating officer, the patrol car was heading south while the Toyota Corolla was heading west.

Shepard said the Corolla drifted into the eastbound lane and collided with the patrol car.

Shepard said that, according to the police officer, he was unable to avoid the collision because of additional traffic, as well as a deep ravine on the shoulder of the road.

Last March 24, a Tagaman competitor from Japan was injured when his bicycle struck a car that collided with a police motorcycle at the intersection of Beach Road and Chalan Hagoi near Mt. Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa.

The driver of the car was cited for failing to yield to an emergency vehicle, according to DPS.

The police officer and the vehicle's passengers were not injured in the crash.

NMI

From Page 1

doesn't see the same thing happening in the CNMI.

Since Boracay and Koh Phi Leh are both popular beach destinations that are quite similar to the CNMI, their closure opens up more opportunities for tourists to come here instead, he said.

"However, I don't think it's possible for us to close down the island for six months or for any period of time because our economy here is heavily reliant on the tourism industry," he said.

"Seventy-two percent of the CNMI economy depends on tourism. ...Closing any part of our islands is not feasible, but it is definitely something that we can look at, see best practices that we could learn from and adopt to execute in the CNMI. The efforts that are being executed for protecting Boracay and Koh Phi Leh islands are good and admirable for us to emulate," he added.

Tagged as one of the best islands in the world by *Conde Nast Traveler* maga-

zine in 2017, Boracay is set to close on April 26 to October of this year because its famous clear blue water has become what Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte describes as a cesspool.

Koh Phi Leh Island, meanwhile, was featured in a Leonardo di Caprio movie *The Beach* in the 1990s and continues to attract tourists from all over the world. It will be off limits to tourists for six months starting this June. The closure is an attempt to reverse prolonged damage done to the marine environment.

According to Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance executive director Roberta Guerrero, Saipan is very much like the Philippines and Thailand, lined by beaches and coastlines that are part of the life and livelihoods of the locals and a big draw for tourism.

"Being that Saipan is a popular tourist destination, people should be more aware of the environmental impacts that arise with population increase and rampant development. The famous Jelly Fish Lake in Palau had to be closed for a time because of the negative

impact of too many visitors is a prime example of over-use of a natural resource in our own region," she said.

"With more visitors and more human impact comes more waste, which in turn results in a less sustainable environment for our food source and climate change protection," she added.

Northern Marianas College Environmental Club president Victoria Matsunaga said the people of Saipan can work together to further understand the strong connection between the land and the sea through education and outreach programs.

"What we do on the land will always affect the ocean and the species that inhabit it," she said. "...Keeping our trash off the ground and out of our waters, we can remind ourselves and teach children about how our actions impact everyone's well-being and... translates to... jobs and a sustainable economic growth."

Matsunaga said an example of an outreach would be to require tourists to watch a video before they arrive in the CNMI about coral reef safety

and how to avoid negatively harming the shores and oceans before they arrive.

"It's part of the education and outreach program that expands to everyone who either lives here or comes for a three-day visit. Our beaches on Saipan, Managaha, and many other places in the northern, southern, and eastern areas of Saipan are meant to be enjoyed by everyone," she added.

Guerrero believes that locals and tourists must work together to keep Saipan at its most pristine state.

"Tourists must respect our island by following simple rules against littering and leaving their trash and personal hygiene needs along our coastlines and in our jungles," she said.

"The negative impact that over-use and insufficient planning and protection put in place affects our oceans and coral reef ecosystems cannot be overstated. The CNMI can... prevent such closures from ever happening by being pro-active now before we reach the point of no return," she added.

UNITED

From Page 1

its five-time daily Guam-Saipan service, as well as the Rota-Guam and Rota-Saipan service, effective May 31, 2018.

Instead, United Airlines would start offering flights between Saipan from Guam using a Boeing 737-800 jet aircraft, which has a capacity of 16 seats in United Business, 42 seats in United Economy Plus, and 108 seats in United Economy.

"The new daily B737-800 jet service will provide our customers in Guam and Saipan with a more reliable and comfortable customer experience. In addition, the new service will offer customers more choices of seats, namely United Business, United Economy Plus or United Economy," the statement added.

The decision to use a jet is intended to meet customer requests for more comfortable and reliable aircrafts, regardless of weather conditions.

"We are confident that the

new daily B737-800 jet service can provide our customers in Guam and Saipan with a more reliable and comfortable customer experience," said the statement.

The statement did not indicate flight arrangements United Airlines may have with other airlines.

According to Cape Air chief executive officer Dan Wolf, the Massachusetts-based airline is disturbed by the impact of withdrawing flights from Rota.

As a point of clarification, United Airlines serves Rota from Guam and Saipan through Cape Air United Express. The decision to withdraw flights serving Rota was made by United Airlines.

"We are deeply saddened by this news and the impact it will have on our employees and their families, along with the impact it will have on the communities we have fallen in love with over the past 14 years," said Wolf in a statement.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

Request to set aside man's 188-month prison term denied

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has denied a motion to set aside her imprisonment sentence of 15 years and eight months against a man who pleaded guilty for his role in shipping methamphetamine or "ice" worth \$850,000 from China to Saipan.

Manglona also denied Xi

Huang's request for the court to hold an evidentiary hearing on his motion to vacate or set aside the sentence or require the U.S. government to file a responsive brief.

The judge certified that any appeal is frivolous and would not be taken in good faith.

Manglona said Huang's claim that he was ignorant of the true maximum penalty is belied by the record.

Thus, Manglona said, Huang

is not entitled to relief on his claim that he was coerced to enter into a plea agreement.

Robert T. Torres served as Huang's lawyer.

Manglona said that nowhere in the petition or affidavit does Huang state that if he had known the maximum penalty was a 20-year sentence, then he would have gone to trial and rejected the plea deal.

At most, the judge pointed out, Huang states it is "not clear" whether he would have chosen to go to trial had he known the maximum sentence was 20 years.

Thus, Manglona said, Huang is not entitled to relief

on his claim that he was not informed about the consequence of entering an open plea.

Manglona said she sentenced petitioner to 188 months, which is within the sentencing guidelines range for an offense level of 35.

Also, Manglona said, Huang cannot claim that his lawyer failed to object to the stiff sentence he got for being a leader in the drug shipment scheme.

Manglona also determined that Huang is not entitled to relief on his claim that his appellate counsel was ineffective.

Stephen Nutting served as appellate counsel for Huang.

Manglona said the record clearly demonstrates that Huang is not entitled to relief.

A routine Customs inspection at the seaport of Saipan of a 40-foot container from China resulted in the discovery of the 4.9 lbs. of "ice" hidden in three plastic bags in one of the nine 5-gallon paint containers on Dec. 2, 2015.

Joint federal and local enforcers investigated the shipment, resulting in the arrest of Huang and two co-defendants, Shicheng Cai and Zhaopeng Chen, for conspiracy to distribute "ice."

In March 2016, Huang, who was tagged as the leader of the group, pleaded guilty to an indictment charging him with

one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine. He was sentenced in August 2016.

After he was sentenced, Huang hired new appellate counsel and filed a notice of appeal. Following this filing, the parties entered into a stipulation to dismiss the appeal.

Huang then sought relief from his sentence, claiming ineffective assistance of trial and appellate counsel.

Cai pleaded guilty. Chen went to trial and was found guilty.

Authorities valued the seized "ice" at \$850,000 at that time, making it the second largest illegal drug haul in CNMI history.

Warning out on measles outbreak in PH

The U.S. Embassy in Manila issued a health alert last Friday for its citizens from the mainland and territories traveling to the Philippines about a nationwide measles outbreak.

According to the U.S. Embassy health alert, health officials in the Philippines have reported an outbreak of measles through out the country. U.S. citizens are advised to get measles, mumps and rubella or MMR vaccine, avoid contact with people who are sick and educate self for measles prevention and medication.

Last February, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. issued a press release stating there's no reported outbreak of measles in the CNMI, but encouraged the community to stay updated with the appropriate vaccinations.

The CHCC press release was the result of the ongoing measles outbreak in the Southern part of the Philippine sent by the Department of Health Regional Epidemiology Surveillance Unit in the Philippines to the CNMI Public Health Preparedness Program.

CHCC cannot overemphasize that measles vaccination is highly effective in preventing measles as parents in the CNMI were reminded that

children should receive their first dose of measles vaccine (MMR) at 12-15 months old and a second dose of MMR at 4 to 6 years old.

According to the World Health Organization, initial symptoms of measles which usually appear 10-12 days after infection are high fever (101 F or higher), runny nose, bloodshot eyes, tiny white spots on the inside of the mouth, and rashes. The rash spreads all over the body and usually lasts a week.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention highly recommends that children 12 months and older and adolescents receive two doses of MMR, 28 days apart. Infants 6-11 months old will need one dose before travel.

Returning travelers from the Philippines are asked to be attentive of their health condition and should fever and rash develop, they are asked to see a medical provider immediately.

Information is available at the CHCC immunization program at (670) 236-8745 05 236-9709/83/81 and for assistance, call the U.S. Embassy in the Philippines at (632) 301-2000 or send a message to ACSInfoManila@state.gov. *(Bea Cabrera)*

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

OES registration information

The Oleai Elementary School will be accepting registration for new enrollees for school year 2018-2019, on the following dates:

- Kindergarten: April 16, 2018
- 1st to 5th Grade: June 11, 2018

Students entering Kindergarten must be 5 years old on or before Sept. 30. Students will not be officially registered until all required documents have been submitted. Incomplete registration will not be accepted.

Requirements include a completed registration form with attached PSS policy and permission form; copy of birth certificate; valid school entrance health certificate; valid copy of school accident/health insurance/Medicaid; valid copy of both parents/guardian(s) I.D.; copy of legal

adoption/guardianship issued by court (if applicable); transfer out documents from previous school; for Kindergarten students, Head Start completion certificate (if applicable).

Registration forms are available at our main office. Documents can be submitted to the office on Mondays-Fridays between 1pm and 4:30pm. For more information or inquiry call our main office at 664-3942. *(PR)*

PTSA meeting for Kagman cluster schools


This is to inform all parents, guardians, and the community that the Kagman cluster of schools will be having a PTSA meeting on Thursday, April 19, 2018 at 5:30pm in the Kagman Elementary School cafeteria. Call the school at 237-3921, 664-4100, or 664-3911. *(PR)*

CALLING ALL BUSINESSES!


JOIN SAIPAN'S FIRST ANNUAL

RACE FOR

LIFE




Enter a 4-member team to compete in the first ever IT&E Race for Life (Island-wide) Scavenger Hunt slated for Saturday, April 21, 2018! Registration Fee \$300 per team. Register by Thursday, April 19, 2018.



Awesome prizes up for grabs!

All proceeds to benefit the 2018 Marianas March Against Cancer.



THINK YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO WIN?

Contact us at RaceForLife@itehq.net or stop by our Marketing office in Middle Road, Chalan Laulau.

Veterans Resource Fair

PHOTOS By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



The Hardt Eye Clinic booth provided blood pressure and blood sugar screenings to veterans like Saipan Mayor David Apatang at the 2nd Annual Veterans Resource Fair on April 5 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.



Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) talks with veterans at the 2nd Annual Veterans Resource Fair on April 5 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.



The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. provided service to veterans at the 2nd Annual Veterans Resource Fair on April 5 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.



The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority table at the 2nd Annual Veterans Resource Fair on April 5 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.



Many veterans availed of the services offered at the 2nd Annual Veterans Resource Fair on April 5 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.



Marianas Medical Center provided service to veterans at the 2nd Annual Veterans Resource Fair on April 5 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.



The Veteran's Health Administration provided service to veterans at the 2nd Annual Veterans Resource Fair on April 5 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.



The Veterans of Foreign Wars table provides service to veterans at the 2nd Annual Veterans Resource Fair on April 5 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.



The Bureau of Motor Vehicles provided services to veterans at the 2nd Annual Veterans Resource Fair on April 5 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.



The CNMI Office of Military and Veterans Affairs provides service to veterans at the 2nd Annual Veterans Resource Fair on April 5 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.



The American Red Cross NMI Chapter table at the 2nd Annual Veterans Resource Fair on April 5 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

MCS celebrates MMB legacy with visual arts

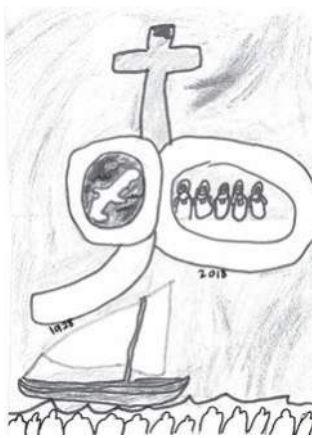
Mount Carmel School is joining the continuing celebration of the 90th anniversary of the arrival of the Mercedarian Missionaries of Berriz, or the MMB sisters, on Saipan.

The school recently held a series of contests that invited students to reflect on the impact of the MMB sisters on Saipan and their school. Winners will be announced during a special May 4 Mass for May Crowning. Featured in this article are finalists for the art contest: Oscar Buenafior, Heleyna Dela Santa, and Leah

Lansangan,

Along with Fr. Arnold Bendowski, the MMB sisters were the founding mothers of the school who served as teachers and administrators when the school opened in 1952. Over the years, the MMB sisters have continued to help as teachers, facilitators for student retreats, and spiritual advocates who keep the school in their prayers.

To honor the work the MMB sisters have done, the school challenged students to reflect on the theme, "The

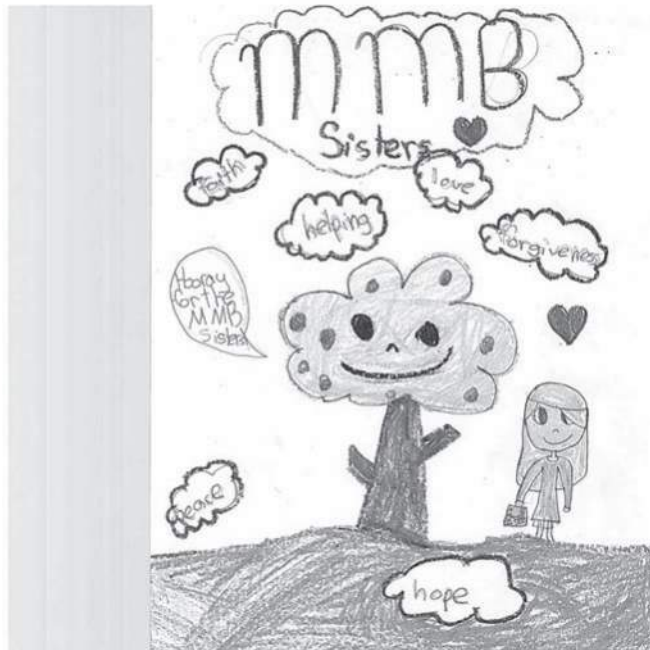


Heleyna Dela Santa's submission for Mount Carmel School's MMB art contest. MCS

MMB Legacy: Looking Back and Looking Forward, What Will Your Mission Be?"

According to the school's campus minister, Vir Abueme, "This theme highlights the missionary nature of their work, because they were, indeed, on a mission to make this world a better place through prayer, service, and education."

Inspired, informed, and transformed by the legacy of the MMB nuns, students were asked how they will continue the MMB legacy and what will their mission be. Students were invited to submit entries in the following categories: K-4, drawing/painting art contest; 5-8, poetry contest; and



Leah Lansangan's submission for Mount Carmel School's MMB art contest. MCS



Oscar Buenafior's submission for Mount Carmel School's MMB art contest. MCS

9-12, essay contest.

Submissions will be scored using the following criteria:

Reflection of MMB history, reflection on MMB impact on Mount Carmel School,

articulation of student's personal mission, and quality of work. (PR)

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS

P.O. Box 500830, Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel. (670) 234-3751/52/53
Facebook Address: facebook.com/DPLCNMI • Website: www.dpl.gov.mp

RFP18 – RED001

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: May 26, 2018

"MANAGAHA ISLAND MASTER CONCESSION OPERATOR"

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Lands (DPL), are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified firms interested in being the exclusive master concession operator for service and activities on or relating to Managaha Island.

The RFP instruction and information package (RFP Packet) is available at the DPL office, located on the 2nd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, during the hours of 7:30am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday, except holidays. If a hardcopy is preferred, a charge of .50 cents per page will be assessed, however, the full package of the RFP is available to download at www.dpl.gov.mp or can be emailed to anyone interested at no cost. Interested proposers from overseas may request an RFP Packet by email reference "RFP18-RED001 MANAGAHA CONCESSION".

Questions from proposing firms regarding the premises and the contents of the RFP Packet must be received, **no later than 4:30 pm on April 23, 2018 ChST** and must be submitted in writing via mail, email or facsimile to Ms. Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo, Secretary, Department of Public Lands at the following address:

Department of Public Lands
P.O. Box 500380
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone number(s): (670) 234-3751/52/53
Facsimile number: (670) 234-3755
Email: mariannet@dpl.gov.mp



Sealed proposals must be marked "RFP18-RED001 MANAGAHA CONCESSION". One (1) original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the DPL at its address above **no later than 4:00pm ChST, on May 26, 2018.**

By submitting a proposal, the interested firm agrees to enter into a concession agreement in the form attached to the RFP Packet as Exhibit D. DPL reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal, if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interest of public land beneficiaries. All costs associated with preparing a proposal are entirely the responsibility of proposers. All proposals shall become the sole property of DPL.

Marianne Concepcion –Teregeyo
Secretary
Department of Public Lands



Eli DT. Cabrera
Administrator

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.crm.gov.mp



Janice E. Castro
Director

PUBLIC NOTICE

From the COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
of the CNMI'S DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

DATE: April 17, 2018

NOTICE OF ROUTINE PROGRAM CHANGE: Pursuant to 15 CFR § 923.84, notice is hereby given that the CNMI Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) is submitting a routine program change request (RPC) to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office for Coastal Management (OCM).

The program change will (1) update the CNMI Coastal Management Program's Approved List of Federal Actions Subject to Federal Consistency Review, (2) add 2 CMC §§ 3121 and 3122 to incorporate the Division of Environmental Quality's Air Pollution Control Program regulations as enforceable policies, and (3) amend DCRM regulations codified at NMIAC § 15-10 to reflect minor changes in wording, clarify terms, and incorporate policies to implement the Mitigation Hierarchy and achieve no net loss of wetlands, coral reefs, and sea grass systems.

DCRM has determined that these updates constitute a routine program change to DCRM's federally-approved coastal management program because the actions do not make any substantial changes to: (1) uses subject to management; (2) special management areas; (3) boundaries; (4) authorities and organization, or (5) coordination, public involvement, and national interest.

DCRM is requesting that OCM concur with this determination. The Routine Program Change memo submitted to OCM can be accessed on the DCRM website at: www.crm.gov.mp/our-programs/permitting/federal-consistency/.

Comments regarding whether this program modification does or does not constitute a routine program change may be submitted to NOAA OCM within three weeks of the date of this notice. Please send all comments to:

Ms. Joelle Gore, Acting Chief
Coastal Programs Division
Office for Coastal Management
NOAA National Ocean Service
1305 East West Hwy., Room 11321
Silver Spring, MC 20910

If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact DCRM at 670-664-8510 or FedCon@dcrm.gov.mp.

Walk and Roll



The Saipan Southern High School Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps poses for a photo during the Walk and Roll against sexual assault last Wednesday in Chalan Kanoa.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



Children hold up signs that spread awareness of sexual assault during the Walk and Roll against sexual assault last Wednesday in Chalan Kanoa.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



Department of Corrections personnel prepares to march during the Walk and Roll against sexual assault last Wednesday in Chalan Kanoa.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



The Saipan Southern High School Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps practices the chant that was prepared especially for the Walk and Roll against sexual assault last Wednesday in Chalan Kanoa, Saipan.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



This year's Walk and Roll theme is "Embrace Your Voice" and the banner is held up front during the Walk and Roll against sexual assault last Wednesday in Chalan Kanoa.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



Sexual assault awareness signs are held up during the Walk and Roll against sexual assault last Wednesday in Chalan Kanoa.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



Dozens of community members join the walk against sexual assault during the Walk and Roll against sexual assault last Wednesday in Chalan Kanoa.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



The Department of Corrections walked against sexual assault during the Walk and Roll against sexual assault last Wednesday in Chalan Kanoa.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

CNMI submits project proposals for OIA grant program

The Office of Grants Management & State Clearinghouse recently submitted project proposals to the Office of Insular Affairs under the Technical Assistance and Maintenance Assistance Programs for fiscal year 2018.

This year's project submissions focused on varying areas inclusive of public health and safety, environmental awareness, and regional issues.

Approximately \$3 million in total assistance is being proposed. These submissions are not necessarily all TAP and MAP grant proposals; other autonomous agencies have also submitted their proposals before the April deadline.

Last year, the CNMI government received approximately \$2.2 million in TAP and MAP funding from OIA.

The CNMI submissions for technical assistance include:

a. CNMI Property Address System. This aims to implement a numbering system for homes and commercial units in the CNMI.

The CNMI is growing. Development has been at an all-time high and with this growth comes the increasing complexities of identifying locations within a district. Often, even the most informed residents are muddled when giving directions.

The property address system shall positively affect the quality of services made available to the communities of the CNMI, especially addressing

emergency response times through direct location identification.

b. Recycling Redemption Facility Revitalization Program. This aims to streamline the capabilities of the government-run recycling facility to include the redemption of aluminum cans and the recycling of rubber tires off-island. With the funding assistance, the Department of Public Works will be able to receive recyclables, pay out for the recyclable materials, process them for shipping, and barge them to vendors that will accept and prepare them for further recycling, scrapping and/or manufacturing. The program will escalate the islands' recycling capabilities and jumpstart further action for a more sustainable future. It proposes to redeem aluminum cans at \$0.03 to \$0.05 each.

c. Comprehensive Economic Forecast Follow-Up Study. The last economic study for the CNMI was conducted in 2008. In the past 10 years, many activities have transpired that have altered the course and lives of people and businesses in the CNMI, warranting an updated report. Thus, it would be prudent for the CNMI government to render the services of a professional economic firm to study the impact of the current economic conditions as it may relate to past, current, and possibly future federal implications of our CNMI.

d. Zero Waste Initiative: An Island Composting Program. This aims to reduce the burden placed on the Marpi landfill by diverting green waste, yard waste, and food scraps into organic matter that will eventually be decomposed, recycled and eventually used as a fertilizer and soil amendment.

e. Marianas Working Group. A collaboration of minds from the CNMI and Guam, the group is will speak with a collective voice on local, regional, and national issues to develop policy solutions to mutually benefit both jurisdictions.

f. Automated Passport Control Units Acquisition. More APC units will be procured and stationed at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport to ensure that travelers clear immigration processing quickly and securely. The addition of the APC units would reduce the waiting times for incoming passengers.

g. Psychologist for substance abuse and rehabilitation program. The psychologist shall assist with the organization and management of rehabilitation programs, public-education campaigns, and therapy sessions for people struggling with substance abuse at the Hinemlu O'hala Para Enteramenti (HOPE) Recovery Center of the Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation Program under the Office of the Governor.

h. Utilization review nurse

for CNMI Medical Referral Office. The CNMI has been paying excessive amounts in patient care services for some time. The services provided by the utilization review nurse shall safeguard the CNMI from paying excessive charges for patient care services.

i. CNMI Invasive Species Coordination (Year 2): The proposal is for the continuum of the CNMI invasive species coordinator. The coordinator shall safeguard and warrant the ideas and intentions of the CNMI Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan.

j. Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Detection, Eradication, & Prevention (Year 2). The grant, if awarded, will be used for the continuum of the coconut rhinoceros beetle detection, eradication, and preventative measures throughout the CNMI, especially on Rota.

k. Floodplain Software & System Acquisition. The procurement of the Aeronautical Reconnaissance Coverage Geographic Information System, or ArcGIS, program software is being recommended to update floodplain data. The funding assistance will also be used to provide training for personnel to familiar themselves with the specialized program.

l. Rota Aquaponics Initiative – Phase II. An expansion to the already-running aquaponics program is long overdue. The project will include the introduction of additional

vegetable varieties and varying aquatic life and program amenities to enhance the program's sustainability on the island of Rota.

m. Micronesian Islands Forum. The forum provides for the reaffirmation of governments, to establish closer ties, expand future discussions and agree on beneficial initiatives for the benefit of the Micronesian region. The CNMI will be hosting the 23rd Micronesian Islands Forum.

Under the Maintenance Assistance Program, the following project proposals were submitted:

a. DPW grader acquisition. The addition of the heavy equipment unit will improve the division's capacity to maintain roads on Saipan.

b. Ma'afala Breadfruit Initiative tractor acquisition. With approximately 40,000 square meters of agricultural space and over a thousand seedlings to nourish, the CNMI Ma'afala Breadfruit Initiative Program will use the tractor in the cultivation and maintenance of the landscape at Kagman.

c. Medical Referral Wheelchair Transport Vehicle Acquisition. A retrofitted wheelchair accessible van to be used by the CNMI Guam Medical Referral Service Office for the transport of CNMI patients receiving medical treatment and care on Guam.

The Office of Grants Management & State Clearing-

house also submitted a project proposal for the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority for the professional development of the program's transit operators, transportation information specialists, and additional staff. The instruction and guidance provided from these working sessions shall ensure that safety, efficiency, and accountability is instilled into the daily operations of COTA and its service to the community.

Epiphany E. Cabrera, Jr., administrator for the Office of Grants Management said that "the CNMI is quickly developing and we need to fortify many of our current programs and develop new innovative ones to meet economic progress. It's been a blessing for the office to locate and pull more federal funds each year."

Cabrera added, "the office certainly welcomes the community's input, ideas, and suggestions for future proposed grant submissions."

The Office of Grants Management is currently working on completing proposals under the Community Development Block Grant, a grant administered by the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. The management and staff are also putting together proposals for the Energizing Insular Communities grant program under the Office of Insular Affairs. Grant applications are due May 31, 2018. (PR)

HONOLULU—Petty Officer 2nd Class Tara A. Molle was recognized as the 2017 active duty enlisted person of the year, and Petty Officer 1st Class Mark G. Camacho was recognized as the 2017 reserve enlisted person of the year for the Coast Guard 14th District during a ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam last Friday.

Molle, a public affairs specialist at the Coast Guard 14th District, recently provided strong coverage for the 75th anniversary of World War II, shooting imagery at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii and Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands.

While in Guadalcanal, beyond her assigned duties, she supplemented her Marine Corps colleagues who were short-handed, providing multi-service imagery used nationally and internationally.

Molle consistently demonstrated dynamic leadership and authority through a series of high-level events such as the monthlong period following the grounding of the Pacific Paradise off Waikiki and standing as a public information officer during Hurricane Irma in South Carolina and Florida.

Most notably, she spearheaded a grassroots boating safety campaign developing

2 honored as USCG district's persons of the year



Rear Adm. Vincent Atkins, commander, Coast Guard 14th District and Master Chief Petty Officer Edward Lewis, command master chief for the Coast Guard 14th District, recognize Petty Officer 2nd Class Tara A. Molle as the 14th Coast Guard District's active duty enlisted person of the year and Petty Officer 1st Class Mark G. Camacho as the 14th Coast Guard District's reserve enlisted person of the year at an awards banquet at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on April 6, 2018. Molle and Camacho were recognized along with other awardees who were recognized as EPOY's for their specific units due to their exemplary performance over the past year.

an innovative public safety announcement with internationally renowned professional waterman Kai Lenny for National Safe Boating Week.

In addition to her regular Coast Guard duties, Molle

consistently volunteered for District 14 community relation's projects, providing over 300 hours of on and off-duty time to support the district and various organizations throughout Oahu.

Camacho, a maritime enforcement specialist at Coast Guard Station Apra Harbor, Guam, has had a powerful impact on the station and Sector Guam. To assist with heavy training and workload,

he volunteered to accept two separate sets of extended active duty orders. As a result, he mitigated a vacancy gap, becoming a key member by serving as a boat crewmember, boarding officer, law en-

forcement petty officer and law enforcement instructor.

As an LEI, he conducted 38 hours of law enforcement techniques, policies, and procedures, which resulted in 11 newly certified members in critical positions.

Most notably, he planned, organized, and executed a two-day joint agency law enforcement training college that included Guam Coast Guard units, Guam Police Department Marine Division, and Guam Port Police.

Camacho is a dedicated member of the Civilian Volunteer Police Reserve, a facet of the Guam Police Department. He also dedicated volunteer time to assist with the Annual Kids Care Photo ID event, which provides children's families with free identifying booklets that ensures safety and security of 234 children via a rapid identification method in the event of an Amber Alert.

The EPOY is an annual program run and executed by chief petty officers, designed to recognize exemplary men and women of the active and reserve enlisted workforce who are top performers and reflect the Coast Guard's core values of honor, respect, and devotion to duty. (USCG)

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVIII, Issue No. 75

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

What America does—and doesn't—want in Syria

In the early stretches of the seven-year Syrian civil war, President Barack Obama proclaimed a clear mission: Syrian President Bashar Assad had to go. Assad didn't. Then Obama dared Assad to cross a U.S. red line on the use of chemical weapons in the war. Assad did.

Assad suffered no serious consequences. Obama eventually allowed limited U.S. military involvement and put faith in a brokered arrangement by which Syria supposedly would relinquish its chemical weapons. Congress never has had any stomach for declaring what this nation's role in Syria's civil war should be. As years dragged on, the war has claimed some 400,000 or more lives. Why the U.S. indecision?

Obama was fearful of drawing the U.S. deeper into the civil war. President Donald Trump shares that fear. He has focused on defeating Islamic State—a formidable task largely achieved. He is eager to pull the last 2,000 U.S. troops out of Syria.

This meandering maybe-we-will-maybe-we-won't path led to Friday night's missile strikes against three Syrian chemical weapons facilities. "Mission accomplished!" Trump tweeted after America's military unleashed more than 100 missiles.

Yes, this attack should help hobble Assad's ability to drop those horrific weapons on his own citizens. But this episode doesn't answer the overarching question: What is the U.S. mission in Syria now—if any? We think Americans largely agree on two agendas—both important, one broad, the other narrow:

The broader agenda is that Islamic State still poses some level of physical and inspirational menace to the world. This group must be eradicated. On the ground, that goal is nearly accomplished, but will require U.S. vigilance over the next years to ensure the group does not reconstitute itself.

The narrower agenda is that the U.S. and its allies will defend international laws against chemical weapons and retaliate against countries that use them. That's a critical message to send, again and again if need be. No regime should feel it can gas its citizens without severe consequences.

Beyond those two points, American leaders and citizens have no consensus. Some want an isolationist approach in which Washington does next to nothing. Others want a more muscular approach, to topple Assad and to keep Russia and Iran from cementing Syria into their Mideast spheres of influence.

We've backed the effort to crush Islamic State. And we support Trump's Tomahawks against chemical weapons plants that should have been shut long ago.

But face facts: Russia, Iran and Turkey still largely determine the future of Syria. Barring military and other pressures that a majority of Americans likely wouldn't endorse, the U.S. will be a marginal player.

Assad and his handlers knew before using poisonous

See **AMERICA** on Next Page



Data, privacy, Facebook, and the future that Goldilocks ate

By **NANCY KAFFER**
Detroit Free Press



DETROIT—In the future, we will change our bodies like we change our clothes. TV will be alternate reality, or at least three-dimensional. We'll have driverless cars, natch, but they'll run on rails up and down the side of giant buildings festooned with equally giant holographic images that speak to us by name. There may be a giant terrifying psychic flying bear, and possibly our bodies will be farmed by artificial intelligence in need of meat batteries.

If you can avoid the bear and the meat-battery thing, it's going to be pretty neat.

That, futurist Amy Webb of the Future Today Institute says, is the kind of future Americans like to think about: A fetishized future informed by science fiction.

The future as it unfolds around us, changing our lives daily? The growing presence of artificial intelligence that chooses what online ads to show us, who gets over the first hurdle to a bank loan, which applications for unemployment benefits are found fraudulent? Or the transformative social network and subsequent user privacy breaches that landed Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg before the U.S. Congress?

"None of us have been paying attention," said Webb, in town as the inaugural speaker for Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan and John S. and James L. Knight Foundation's Future of Information speaker series. "When technology makes your life a little bit better, it's easier to ignore the ways in which technology might be worrisome a little later on ... So technology companies, which are profit-driven, are building products and services based on our data, and we've all collectively looked the other direction."

Lawmakers' questions for Zuckerberg have been painful, at times, focusing on fiddly minutiae and ignoring the systemic questions that underlie not just the entire social-media data-collection business model, but the artificial intelligence that underpins it all.

For his part, Zuckerberg is really, really sorry about all of it, but seems to regard the most serious questions about Facebook's lack of diligence as settled.

And none of it is likely to change much of anything.

The expertise needed to craft really good policy that would lead to beneficial reform—not the false choice of crushing regulation or a free-market free-for-all—is difficult to come by, Webb said.

For decades, the U.S. Office of Technology Assessment provided lawmakers with analyses of technology, with the goal of informing

both good policy and effective use of government resources. It was de-funded in 1995 by a then-Republican U.S. Congress.

So in Maryland, at least—the first state in the nation to adopt a social media advertising disclosure policy—that expertise comes from Facebook itself.

"Will Castleberry, Facebook's vice president for state policy, said the company helped draft the Maryland legislation and 'looks forward to implementing' it," the Baltimore Sun reported recently. "We believe this bill will be a national model for the other 49 states to follow," he said in a statement."

That's fine, probably, right?

What's perplexing to me is our persistent failure to engage substantively with these questions, brewing for more than a decade as companies like Facebook, Twitter and Google rose from scrappy, disruptive underdogs to media titans.

But this transformation should shock no one.

"We have lots of stories throughout history in which creators create things and then we're shocked when the things we created don't behave in ways that we intend. That's the story of technology," Webb says.

America's comparative newness as a nation (other countries, she says, engage far more actively with these questions) may be one reason we're so focused on the present, Webb says. And the political, social and economic divides that are so pronounced at this moment in history get in the way of collective action to address the threats to our individual privacy.

The current clamor for a reckoning, Webb says, is likely temporary.

Folks are fussed about Facebook and data breaches now. A few months ago, it was Twitter, and the ease with which hate groups have exploited the platform to target abuse toward racial, religious and ethnic minorities. In a few months, it'll be Twitter in the news again, or Amazon.

And yet, says Webb, "I can promise you this problem is going to get worse, not better, without serious change."

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Why Paul Ryan's departure sends

WASHINGTON—Speaker Paul Ryan's decision to retire isn't a good omen for the Republican Party.

Congressional leaders don't up and quit when they're on top—not if they can reasonably foresee years of uninterrupted power ahead. They don't walk away when they have a reliable ally in the White House pushing the same agenda.

But those aren't the conditions Ryan faces.

"I have every confidence that I'll be handing this gavel on to the next Republican speaker of the House next year," Ryan said, despite growing evidence that the 2018 midterms will deal a body blow to his party.

He also insisted that dealing with President Donald Trump and coping with the chaos Trump has brought to Washington and the party had nothing to do with his decision.

"Not at all," he said. "I've made a big difference and he's given us that chance."

Ryan has made a big difference for Republicans.

When tensions with the Freedom Caucus/tea party wing became too much for John Boehner to bear, Ryan stepped into the breach. As chairman of the Budget and Ways and Means committees, and as Mitt Romney's running mate in 2012, he'd earned deep admiration for his sunny demeanor, magnetism and steadfast conservatism.

In the post-Boehner era he was by far the most unifying leader available. He's been the lid atop a simmering stew of grievances and cross-purposes.

And he has strategically kept the congressional wing of the party at a safe distance from a volatile president.

"I understand his frustrations," Sen. Chuck Schumer, the Democratic minority leader, said on the Senate floor after Ryan announced that he won't seek reelection. He all but dared the lame duck speaker to use "his newfound political freedom ... to break free from these hard-right factions that have plagued him."

Some considerations as Ryan's move sinks in:

No way to put lipstick on this pig

This is not good news for Republicans. Ryan's departure puts his own Wisconsin district at risk.

It sets off a leadership fight between Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy and Whip Steve Scalise and possibly the likes of Austin Rep. Michael McCaul, whose tenure as homeland security chairman is ending.

The infighting will drain energy just as the party needs a unified front to protect a majority that is very much at risk in November.

A blue wave is probably coming

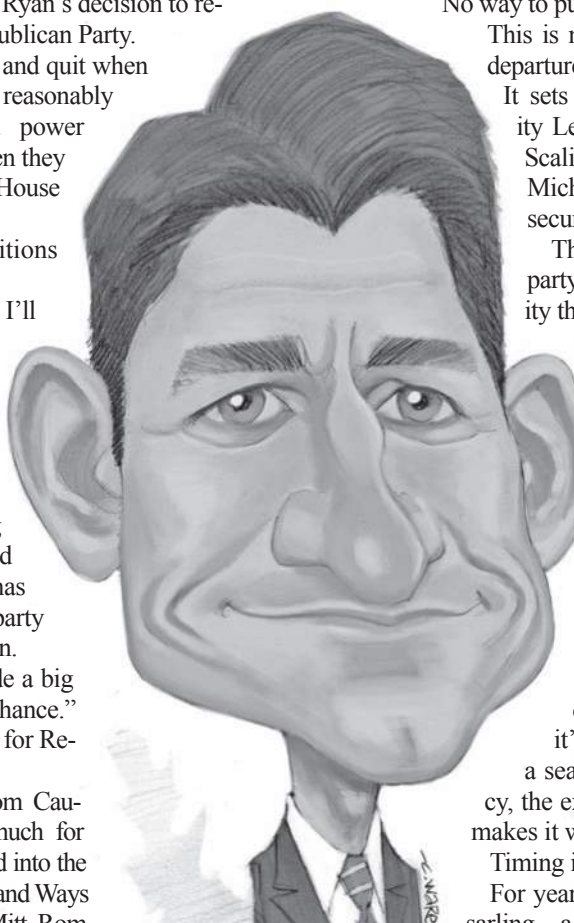
Midterm elections are almost always painful for the president's party. There's no reason to expect Trump to buck the trend, given how unpopular he is, the staff churn at his White House, questions about hush money to a porn star and the ongoing drama regarding his desire to fire special counsel Robert Mueller.

The list is growing of House Republicans quitting rather than tough out a dreadful reelection season. And since it's always easier for incumbents to keep a seat than for a newcomer to win a vacancy, the exodus reflects the GOP's challenge and makes it worse.

Timing is everything in politics

For years it appeared that Dallas Rep. Jeb Hensarling—a close friend of Ryan, and incidentally, Vice President Mike Pence—nursed ambitions of becoming speaker. His moment has passed.

He announced months ago that he won't seek reelection and he's already missed the Texas primary so it's too late to



By **TODD J. GILLMAN**
The Dallas Morning News



change his mind. Although the Constitution allows the House to elect a speaker who isn't a member of Congress, that has never happened.

Trump shouldn't be happy.

Ryan was an accidental speaker. He didn't seek the job but after he comported himself so well as the vice presidential nominee in 2012, Boehner and others twisted his arm, playing on his sense of duty to party and country, and he agreed.

But Ryan's real ambition, other than the quixotic policy goal of revamping entitlement programs, is the Oval Office. Stepping down as speaker positions him for that in 2024. And it sets him up to be a white knight in 2020 if Trump looks vulnerable or is impeached.

Ryan insisted that he's not interested in running for office at any level. That may be true now, but it's not ironclad.

"Not while my kids are growing up," he told CNN's Jake Tapper Wednesday afternoon. "I really thought when I took this job, Jake, that this is probably the last elected office I would have. I'm not going to run for president."

Worst case for Ryan is that he's shedding a dead end job when it comes to angling for the White House.

James Polk, a Tennessee Democrat, remains the only president who had ever held the office of speaker, and that was before the Civil War.

Mark Zuckerberg's insufferable tripe

Once again, Mark Zuckerberg is sorry.

The founder of Facebook, who has apologized for privacy breaches throughout much of his company's existence, is back at it, on a much larger stage than ever before.

The proximate cause is the Cambridge Analytica controversy. In violation of Facebook's rules, the Trump-linked political consultancy schemed to get access to the data of 87 million users. This has made Facebook a scapegoat for President Donald Trump's victory on par with the Russians and James Comey (at least before the FBI director got fired and became a Trump adversary).

It's not Zuckerberg's fault that he has suddenly been deemed on the wrong side of history, but the Cambridge Analytica blowup is bringing a useful spotlight on the most sanctimoniously self-regarding large company in America. Facebook can't bear to admit that it has garnered the largest collection of data known to man to sell ads against and line the pockets of its founder and investors.

The problem isn't that Mark Zuckerberg is a businessman, and an exceptionally gifted one, but that he pretends to have stumbled out of the lyrics of John Lennon's song "Imagine." To listen to him, Facebook is all about connectivity and openness—he just happens to have made roughly \$63 billion as the T-shirt-wearing champion of "the global community," whatever that means.

It's this pose that makes him and other Facebook officials sound so shifty. In a rocky interview with Savannah Guthrie of the "Today" show, Sheryl Sandberg was asked what product Facebook sells. "We're selling the opportunity to connect with people," she said, before catching herself, "but it's not for sale."

Something or other must be for sale, or Facebook is the first company to rocket to the top ranks of corporate America based on having no product or profit motive. Guthrie, persisting, stated that Facebook sweeps up data for the use of advertis-

By **RICH LOWRY**
King Features Synd., Inc.



Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

ers. Sandberg objected: "We are not sweeping data. People are inputting data."

Uh, yeah. That's the genius of it. In a reported exchange with a friend while he was a student at Harvard, Zuckerberg boasted of having data on thousands of students because "people just submitted it."

Zuckerberg has now managed the same trick on a global scale. On the one hand, Facebook has indeed made efforts to protect the data of its users, knowing that it can't risk a fundamental breach of trust. On the other, Zuckerberg has repeatedly said he's sorry for offenses against his users' privacy because his business model contradicts his self-righteous public posture.

It's possible to imagine something like Facebook run as a nonprofit service for the global commons. That's not what Zuckerberg chose to do to. To his credit, he created a compelling—nay, for some people, addicting—product and made a killing for the ages.

Perhaps the public pressure will force the social network to give its customers even more control over the use of their data. At a minimum, it will have achieved something if it gets Facebook to give up the saccharine one-world rhetoric about its mission and admit the bottom line is as important to it as any other profit-making company.

AMERICA

From Page 10

weapons that Trump would answer with the sort of retaliation he ordered used Friday. The Syrians want U.S. troops out of Syria; they could have waited Trump out, let him withdraw the troops and then attacked Syrian civilians. Instead, Assad chose to press his overwhelming advantage. A few missiles, that he can tolerate. He knows he won't incur an outsize U.S. reaction.

In sum, this strike by Western militaries didn't change the dynamics of the civil war that is largely over. Yes, Friday's attack did underscore a comparable assault on Syrian facilities last April: Assad invites increasingly fierce retaliation if, in his zeal to crush the militants trying to depose him, he uses chemical weapons. But that 2017 assault didn't intimidate Assad. We'll see whether the results in 2018 are any different.

Friday's strikes won't satisfy the American isolationists who think the U.S. has no interests at stake in Syria, or the more bellicose Americans who hoped for heavier strikes to debilitate Assad's military.

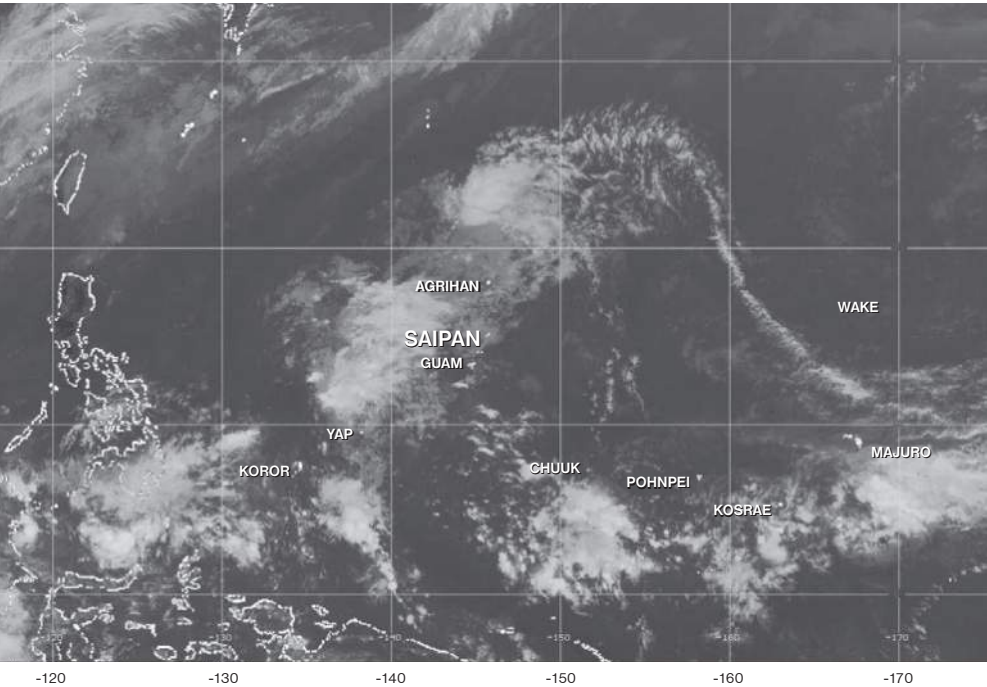
But after seven years—first with a timid U.S. president and now with a conflicted U.S. president—there's no American agreement on what this nation should do. Absent a more ambitious and effective Syria policy, occasionally curbing Assad's most brutal tendencies will have to do.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:39 AM, MONDAY, APRIL 16, 2018

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Weather is gradually drying out in the Marianas and seas are looking to remain elevated yet below advisory levels. Looks like dry season has returned and will stay for a while. Probably in May or June the TUTTs will start, and this will signal the beginning of the true wet season. This has already been a quite interesting year, will be an adventure waiting to see how it turns out.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	86° / 77°	
Palau	Thunderstorm	85° / 77°	
Yap	Thunderstorm	85° / 80°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	86° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	85° / 77°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	85° / 77°	
Majuro	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Showers	64° / 57°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	84° / 59°	
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	80° / 73°	
Honolulu	Showers	80° / 72°	
London	Partly Cloudy	70° / 52°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	69° / 51°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	95° / 79°	
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	73° / 50°	
Miami	Sunny	76° / 67°	
New York	Mostly Cloudy	51° / 38°	
Osaka	Rain	64° / 55°	
Paris	Mostly Sunny	68° / 52°	
Busan	Sunny	63° / 46°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	70° / 54°	
Salem	Sunny	76° / 52°	
San Francisco	Sunny	56° / 46°	
Seoul	Sunny	64° / 43°	
Tokyo	Rain	59° / 52°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	51° / 40°	



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
2:32 AM	LOW TIDE	0.54	
8:11 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.98	
2:54 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.03	
9:13 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.99	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:01 AM	6:31 PM
Wednesday	6:01 AM	6:31 PM
Thursday	6:00 AM	6:32 PM
Friday	6:00 AM	6:32 PM
Saturday	5:59 AM	6:32 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	6:52 AM	7:41 PM	-
Wednesday	7:40 AM	8:39 PM	-
Thursday	8:31 AM	9:39 PM	-
Friday	9:26 AM	10:40 PM	-
Saturday	10:23 AM	11:40 PM	-

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017

DEPARTURES			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL297	4:20pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (GHG)			
JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
U043	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (GHG)-SAIPAN			
JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
U042	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
U042	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Procrastinators rejoice: There's still time to file taxes

By SARAH SKIDMORE SELL
AP PERSONAL FINANCE WRITER

If you woke up in a panic realizing that today is April 15, relax. You've got until Tuesday to file and pay your taxes without facing a penalty.

April 15 falls on Sunday this year and Monday is Emancipation Day, a holiday in Washington D.C. That gives taxpayers nationwide until April 17 to get the job done.

Procrastinators can take some solace in knowing that as of Friday 40 million Americans hadn't filed their taxes, according to the IRS. Still, this is no time to dawdle; here are some tips for you last-minute filers:

HOW TO FILE

The IRS says that electronic filing is the best way to avoid common mistakes. That's because the software does the calculations, flags common errors and prompts taxpayers to provide missing information.

It's quicker than dropping something in the mail. Plus, electronic filers typically get their refund faster if due one.

You can use any electronic filing method you choose, but it's worth noting that the IRS says about 70 percent of taxpayers are eligible to file their



In this Feb. 15, 2018, photo, Angela Thames, office manager of a north Jackson, Miss., Liberty Tax Service, says each completed tax return is carefully separated and filed for quick retrieval if needed.

tax return at no charge by using IRS Free File software. It can be accessed at the IRS website at IRS.gov.

TAKE YOUR TIME

Yes, it's crunch time but try not to rush.

Lisa Greene-Lewis, CPA at TurboTax, said the most important tip for entering information is to take your time. One of the most common mistakes taxpayers make when rushing is gathering in-

correct Social Security numbers for their children and spouses. Some even misspell their own names.

Instead, carefully gather and enter your Social Security number, income information and banking information, if needed. It will take more time in the long-run to correct your mistakes and will delay any refunds.

SEEK HELP

Telephone calls to the IRS

may have long wait times. Ditto if you try to go to somewhere in person, such as a tax assistance center.

Instead, the IRS website should be your first stop for finding answers to most basic tax questions. Popular tax software providers have their own solutions too. TurboTax now offers live on-demand video to communicate with a credentialed CPA or enrolled agent who can answer your questions.

ASK FOR MORE TIME

If you really can't get your tax return done, seek an extension. But getting an extension only gives you more time to file your return—you still have to pay what you owe now.

The IRS allows you to request an automatic six-month extension to file your return when you pay online.

If you owe money and cannot pay immediately, you can ask the IRS for installment agreements when you file your taxes. That will allow you to pay your tax debt over six years. You can also ask about other repayment methods or forgiveness by contacting the IRS.

DO BETTER NEXT TIME

There are a number of reasons to try to file your taxes sooner rather than later.

If you are due a refund, the sooner you file, the sooner you'll get it. And filing earlier in the season gives you time to more carefully prepare your returns and avoid errors.

But most importantly, filing early helps cut down on the risk for identity theft by essentially beating the criminals to the punch. Once your return is filed with the IRS, the information—most notably your Social Security number—is locked and cannot be used by anyone who might want to fraudulently claim a tax refund. And identity theft remains a common problem.

Starbucks CEO apologizes to 2 black men arrested

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Starbucks sells itself as a community gathering spot as much as a coffeehouse, a welcoming place with comfortable chairs for lingering, trendy music and Wi-Fi. That's one reason the arrest of two black men who were sitting in a Starbucks struck a nerve for so many: They were doing exactly what people do at most any of the chain's 28,000 stores worldwide.

The CEO of Starbucks Co., Kevin Johnson, called the arrests a "reprehensible outcome" and said he wants to personally apologize to the men, saying the company "stands firmly against discrimination or racial profiling." But that didn't stop protesters from gathering Sunday outside the store in downtown Philadelphia where the arrests occurred.

As people ordered coffee inside, the Rev. Jeffrey Jordan led a crowd of a couple dozen in chants of "I am somebody, and I demand equality now."

"It is a shame that (in) the year 2018 we're still putting up with this mess," said Jordan. "This country was built on the backs of black and brown people and now Starbucks is going to treat us like we're second-class."

In Washington, D.C., Gregory Wilkins usually visits one of three neighborhood Starbucks for about 45 minutes before work to read the paper with his coffee or smoke a cigarette at the outside tables. Wilkins, who is black, said he'd consider going elsewhere if something like the incident in Philadel-

phia occurred again.

"If nothing is done about what happened, then yeah," Wilkins, 56, said as he went into a Starbucks.

The arrests, which occurred Thursday, were captured on video that quickly gained traction on social media.

Video shows several police talking quietly with two black men seated at a table. After a few minutes, officers handcuff the men and lead them outside as other customers say they weren't doing anything wrong; Philadelphia-area media reported the two had been waiting for a friend.

Officers went to the store after Starbucks employees called 911 to report the men were trespassing, said Police Commissioner Richard Ross. He said officers were told the men had come in and asked to use the restroom but were denied because they hadn't bought anything. He said they then refused to leave.

Johnson's statement didn't address exactly what led to the police call, but a Starbucks spokeswoman said the store where the arrests occurred has a policy that restrooms are for paying customers only. In the video, no Starbucks items are visible in front of either of the men.

Robert Passikoff, the president of a New York-based consulting firm that researches brand loyalty, said companies like Starbucks are in a tough spot as they attempt to operate both as both community centers and places where people are expected to make a purchase.

The dreaded 'meets expectations' employee review

Q: I have become very frustrated with my annual performance review. For the past four years, my manager has given me a "meets expectations" rating. Although he often compliments my work and never has any complaints, he continually rates me as average. When I ask how I might improve, he just says I'm doing a fine job. So why don't I get a better score?

A: Everyone hates performance ratings. Employees hate them, managers hate them, human resources folks hate them. Nevertheless, ratings are a fact of life in most large organizations.

In reality, ratings are not necessary for managing performance, since they convey nothing about what someone does well or what needs to be improved. That requires a conversation. However, ratings do help to facilitate salary administration, because they provide a rationale for dividing up the goodies.

In an effort to reward top performers, many organizations limit higher ratings to a specific percentage of the workforce. As a result, the majority of employees receive the equivalent of "meets expectations." But while this approach might be statistically logical for a large population, in practice it creates some problems.

When applied to smaller groups, which may have many outstanding performers, rating restrictions can be totally inaccurate. Also, because virtually everyone believes they are above average, a "meets" rating may be perceived as insulting. And since most performance assessments are highly subjective, ratings can generate heated debate.

On the other hand, rationing high scores can help to counteract "ratings creep." Left to their own devices, most managers will overuse high ratings, possibly to avoid uncomfortable conversations. Eventually, their evaluations become meaningless.

Clearly, rating performance is a complex problem with no perfect solution. As for your own unsatisfying reviews, here are four possible contributing factors.

First, if your company uses a performance distribution, higher ratings will automatically be limited. Second, some manag-

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of "Secrets to Winning at Office Politics." Send in questions and get free coaching tips at <http://www.yourofficecoach.com>, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.



ers are "low raters" who never give anyone high scores. Third, your boss may not have the final say, because ratings must often be approved by upper management and human resources. Finally, since no one believes they're average, you must be certain that your work actually is superior.

Q: My new company has quarterly "skip-level" meetings in which employees meet one-on-one with their department head. I'm scheduled to have my first discussion with her next week, but I'm not sure how to handle it. Although I'm generally happy here, there are a few things I don't like. How can I be honest without offending her?

A: When people tell me they want to be "honest," this usually means they intend to deliver some direct criticism which may not be well-received. Therefore, you must first understand that "honesty" does not require you to share all your thoughts and feelings.

Instead, you should strategically consider what you want from this conversation. Since most employees have limited contact with upper management, a short discussion can leave a long-lasting impression.

As a new hire, you should honestly convey your interest in the work and your pleasure at joining the company. Ask intelligent business questions, make helpful suggestions, and listen carefully to everything your department head says. Then, if your dislikes are truly important, discuss them with your immediate manager.

Nation

US to hit Russia with new sanctions for aiding Syria's Assad

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley has indicated new economic sanctions will be announced Monday against Russia for enabling the government of Syrian leader Bashar Assad to continue using chemical weapons.

The ambassador to the U.N. said Russia has blocked six attempts by the U.N. Security Council to make it easier to investigate the use of chemical weapons.

"Everyone is going to feel it at this point," Haley said, warning of consequences for Assad's foreign allies.

"The international community will not allow chemical weapons to come back into our everyday life," she said in an interview aired Sunday. "The fact he was making this more normal and that Russia was covering this up, all that has got to stop."

President Donald Trump on Sunday said a U.S.-led missile attack on Syria's chemical weapons program was "perfectly carried out."

Trump tweeted "Mission Accomplished" on Saturday after U.S., French and British warplanes and ships launched more than 100 missiles nearly unopposed by Syrian air defenses. While he de-



Russian Ambassador to the United Nations Vassily Nebenzia speaks during a Security Council meeting on the situation in Syria, Saturday, April 14, 2018 at United Nations headquarters. AP

clared success, the Pentagon said the pummeling of three chemical-related facilities left enough others intact to enable the Assad government to use banned weapons against civilians if it chooses.

His choice of words recalled a similar claim associated with President George W. Bush following the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq. Bush addressed sailors aboard a Navy ship in May 2003 alongside a "Mission

Accomplished" banner, just weeks before it became apparent that Iraqis had organized an insurgency that would tie down U.S. forces for years.

Later Sunday, Trump sent a letter to congressional leaders informing them in writing of his decision to order the strike. Under the War Powers Resolution, the president must keep Congress informed of such actions.

Haley made clear the United States won't be pull-

ing troops out of Syria right away, saying U.S. involvement there "is not done."

Haley said the three U.S. goals for accomplishing its mission are making sure chemical weapons are not used in a way that could harm U.S. national interests, defeating the Islamic State group and having a good vantage point to watch what Iran is doing.

"We're not going to leave until we know we've accomplished those things," she said.

Haley said the joint military strike "put a heavy blow



Source: BBC, AP
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

into their chemical weapons program, setting them back years" and reiterated that if Assad uses poison gas again, "the United States is locked and loaded."

French President Emmanuel Macron said Sunday that France wants to launch a diplomatic initiative over Syria that would include Western powers, Russia and Turkey. Speaking on French television BFM and online site Mediapart, Macron stressed that the French diplomacy is able to talk with Iran, Russia and Turkey on one side and to the United States on the other side.

He said, "Ten days ago, President Trump wanted to withdraw from Syria. We convinced him to remain."

Asked about Macron's comments, White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders stressed that Trump's plans for the region have not changed. In a statement, she said: "The U.S. mission has not changed—the President has been clear that he wants U.S. forces to come home as quickly as possible."

The nighttime assault on Syria was carefully limited to minimize civilian casualties and avoid direct conflict with Russia, but confusion arose over the extent to which Washington warned Moscow in advance. The Pentagon said it gave no explicit warning. The U.S. ambassador in Moscow, John Huntsman, said in a video, "Before we took action, the United States communicated with" Russia to "reduce the danger of any Russian or civilian casualties."

Russia has military forces, including air defenses, in several areas of Syria to support Assad in his long war against anti-government rebels.

Assad denies he has used chemical weapons, and the Trump administration has yet to present hard evidence of what it says precipitated the allied missiles attack: a chlorine gas attack on civilians in Douma on April 7. The U.S. says it suspects that sarin gas also was used.

Spokesman: Former first lady Barbara Bush in failing health

HOUSTON (AP)—Former first lady Barbara Bush is in "failing health" and won't seek additional medical treatment, a Bush family spokesman said Sunday.

"Following a recent series of hospitalizations, and after consulting her family and doctors, Mrs. Bush, now age 92, has decided not to seek additional medical treatment and will instead focus on comfort care," spokesman Jim McGrath said in a news release.

McGrath did not elaborate as to the nature of Bush's health problems. She has been treated for decades for Graves' disease, which is a thyroid condition, had heart surgery in 2009 for a severe narrowing of her main heart valve and was hospitalized a year before that for surgery on a perforated ulcer.

"It will not surprise those who know her that Barbara Bush has been a rock in the face of her failing health, worrying not for herself—thanks to her abiding faith—but for others," McGrath said. "She is surrounded by a family she

adores, and appreciates the many kind messages and especially the prayers she is receiving."

Bush, who is at home in Houston, is one of only two first ladies who was also the mother of a president. The other was Abigail Adams, wife of John Adams, the nation's second president, and mother of John Quincy Adams, the sixth president.

Bush married George H.W. Bush on Jan. 6, 1945.

They had six children and have been married longer than any presidential couple in American history.

Eight years after she and her husband left the White House, Mrs. Bush stood with her husband as their son George W. was sworn in as the 43rd president.

President Donald Trump's press secretary, Sarah Huckabee Sanders, said in a statement Sunday evening that "the President's and first lady's prayers are with all of the Bush family during this time."

Bush is known for her white hair and her triple-strand fake pearl necklace.

Her brown hair began to gray in the 1950s, while her 3-year-old daughter Pauline, known to her family as Robin, underwent treatment for leukemia and eventually died in October 1953. She later said dyed hair didn't look good on her and credited the color to the public's perception of her as "everybody's grandmother."

Her pearls sparked a national fashion trend when she wore them to her husband's inauguration in 1989. The pearls became synonymous with Bush, who later said she selected them to hide the wrinkles in her neck. The candid admission only bolstered her common sense and down-to-earth public image.

Her 93-year-old husband, the nation's 41st president who served from 1989 to 1993, also has had health issues in recent years. In April 2017, he was hospitalized in Houston for two weeks for a mild case of pneumonia and chronic bronchitis. He was hospitalized months earlier, also for pneumonia. He has a form of Parkinson's disease and uses a motorized scooter or a wheelchair for mobility.

Before being president, he



Bush

Opposition to immigrant sanctuary spreading in California

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP)—More local governments in California are resisting the state's efforts to resist the Trump administration's immigration crackdown, and political experts see politics at play as Republicans try to fire up voters in a state where the GOP has grown weak.

Since the Jeff Sessions-led Department of Justice sued California last month over its so-called "sanctuary state" law limiting police collaboration with immigration agents, at least a dozen local governments have voted to either join or support the lawsuit or for resolutions opposing the state's position. Those include the Board of Supervisors in Orange County, which has more than 3 million people.

More action is coming this week, with leaders in the Orange County city of Los Alamitos scheduled to vote Monday on a proposal for a local law to exempt the community of 12,000 from the state law. On Tuesday, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors is meeting to consider

joining the Trump administration lawsuit.

Immigration has been a hot topic across the country since President Donald Trump campaigned in 2016 on promises of tougher enforcement and a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border. It has been a lightning rod issue in California far longer.

The state passed a measure backed by Republican Gov. Pete Wilson in the 1990s to deny public health care and education to immigrants in the country illegally. It was later overturned but left a lingering resentment among the state's growing Hispanic population.

In recent years, California Republicans have taken a less strident approach to immigration in a state where one in four people are foreign-born. But the Trump administration lawsuit has energized many in a party that has been rendered nearly irrelevant at the state level, where Democrats control every key office.

"When the attorney general of the United States decides to take a firm position against it, I think that gave a signal to a lot of us that, 'Hey, California

is on the wrong side of this thing,'" said Fred Whitaker, chairman of the Republican Party in Orange County. He also is a councilman in the city of Orange who proposed a local resolution on the issue that passed last week.

Raphael Sonenshein, executive director of the Pat Brown Institute for Public Affairs at California State University, Los Angeles, said it's not surprising Republicans are galvanizing over immigration.

"Politics is very much about emotions, especially in midterms," he said. "I think it was only a matter of time when people went back to the issue that actually hits the nerve in the Republican base these days more than any other."

Under Democratic leadership, California has enacted a series of laws in recent years aimed at helping immigrants, including issuing driver's licenses regardless of legal status and assisting with tuition at state universities. After Trump was elected, lawmakers passed the measure to limit police collaboration with federal immigration agents.

Asia

Myanmar takes back 1 Rohingya family despite UN concerns

BANGKOK (AP)—Myanmar has accepted what appears to be the first five among some 700,000 Rohingya Muslim refugees who fled to neighboring Bangladesh to escape military-led violence against the minority group, even though the United Nations says it's not yet safe for them to return home.

A government statement said Saturday that five members of a family returned to western Rakhine state from the border area.

The statement said authorities determined whether they had lived in Myanmar and provided them with a national verification card. The card is a form of ID, but does not mean citizenship—something Rohingya have been denied in Buddhist-majority Myanmar, where they've faced persecution for decades.

It said that the family was staying temporarily with relatives in Maungdaw town, the administrative center close to the border.

The statement did not say if any more repatriations are being planned. Bangladesh has given Myanmar a list of more than 8,000 refugees to begin the repatriation, but it has been further delayed by a complicated verification process.

The two countries agreed in December to begin repa-



AP
Myanmar's Social Welfare Minister Win Myat Aye, left, shakes hands with his Bangladeshi counterpart Abul Hassan Mahmud Ali in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Thursday, April 12, 2018.

ification cards to be provided by Myanmar in which they state they are migrants from Bangladesh.

Rohingya Muslims have long been treated as outsiders in Myanmar, even though their families have lived in the country for generations. Nearly all have been denied citizenship since 1982, effectively rendering them stateless. They are denied freedom of movement and other basic rights.

Rahim said they demanded to be recognized as citizens of Myanmar before the repatriation starts and that their security arrangements be supervised by the United Nations.

Rohingya who have been repatriated in the past after previous refugee exoduses have been forced to live in camps in Myanmar.

triating them in January, but they were delayed by concerns among aid workers and Rohingya that they would be forced to return and face unsafe conditions in Myanmar.

Hundreds of Rohingya were reportedly killed in the recent violence, and many houses and villages burned to the ground. The United Nations and the U.S. have described the army crackdown as "ethnic cleansing."

On Friday, the U.N. refugee agency and Bangladesh final-

ized a memorandum of understanding that describes the repatriation process as "safe, voluntary and dignified ... in line with international standards."

UNHCR said it "considers that conditions in Myanmar are not yet conducive for returns to be safe, dignified, and sustainable. The responsibility for creating such conditions remains with the Myanmar authorities, and these must go beyond the preparation of physical infrastructure to facil-

itate logistical arrangements."

Earlier in the week, Myanmar Social Welfare Minister Win Myat Aye met with about 40 Rohingya refugees at the Kutupalong camp in Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh for more than an hour, sometimes exchanging heated words.

A Rohingya leader, Abdur Rahim, said at least eight rape victims were among those who met with him. Rahim said the group presented 13 demands for the government to meet for

their return to Myanmar.

Rahim said the group became angry when Win Myat Aye said the Rohingya refugees must accept national ver-

Air China flight diverted after man holds attendant hostage

BEIJING (AP)—An Air China flight bound for Beijing was diverted to central China on Sunday after a passenger held a flight attendant hostage using a pen as a weapon, authorities said.

All passengers and crew on Flight 1350 made it safely off the plane after it landed in Zhengzhou city at 10 a.m. due to what had earlier been described by authorities as an unspecified "illegal interference."

The flight had taken off at 8:40 a.m. from the city of Changsha in Hunan province and was scheduled to land in Beijing at 11 a.m.

The Civil Aviation Authority of China said in a statement on its website that the plane was diverted when a male passenger held a flight attendant hostage. It said only that "the matter was successfully handled" by 1:17 p.m., but did not provide any details.

Police in Zhengzhou's Henan province said in a statement that the alleged hostage-taker had a history of mental illness and suffered an unspecified "sudden" psychological disorder when he grabbed the flight attendant. It identified the man by only his surname, Xu, and said he was 41 and from Anhua, a county in Hunan. Police arrested him at about 1 p.m., according to the statement.

In a brief report on the microblog Weibo.com, state broadcaster China Central Television included an image

of what appeared to be paramilitary police in combat uniforms and helmets assembled outside a Zhengzhou airport hotel and another image of several ambulances.

The Zhengzhou airport said in a statement that it immediately activated emergency measures, adding that the passengers who disembarked were in a stable mood and that the airport was operating normally.

The airline said police and aviation authorities were handling the matter and refused to provide further information. It said it was arranging for another plane to pick up the passengers from Zhengzhou.

The Beijing News said on its Weibo page that a passenger described being awoken by a scream coming from the front of the plane and that "nobody knew what was going on."

The Xiaoxiang Morning Herald quoted a passenger as saying that the disturbance occurred in the first or business class cabins, but that the curtains separating those sections from economy class were pulled tightly shut.

She looked out the window and saw many police cars, ambulances and fire engines parked outside the plane as it was landing in Zhengzhou, the newspaper said in a Weibo post. The passenger described seeing armed personnel in camouflage uniforms assembled in two or three rows.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Afghan, Pakistani forces clash near border, 2 killed

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghan troops clashed with Pakistani forces near the disputed border on Sunday, in fighting that killed two Pakistani paramilitaries and wounded five others, officials said. Pakistan's military said in a statement that the Frontier Corps was carrying out "routine surveillance" along the border when it was "fired upon from the Afghanistan side." It said the paramilitaries showed "maximum restraint" to avoid civilian casualties, and that "military engagement" is underway to defuse the situation. Col. Abdul Hanan, the acting provincial police chief in Afghanistan's eastern Khost province, said the fighting broke out after Pakistani forces crossed into Afghanistan. The two countries are separated by the 2,400-kilometer (1,500-mile) Durand Line, which was drawn by British rulers in 1896. Afghanistan does not recognize it as an international border and has objected to new fortifications being built by Pakistan. The two U.S. allies

routinely accuse each other of failing to crack down on militants who operate along the porous border.

Kim Jong Un meets high-ranking Chinese diplomat in Pyongyang

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has met with a high-ranking Chinese diplomat in Pyongyang, amid a flurry of diplomacy following Kim's recent surprise visit to Beijing. Song Tao, who heads the ruling Communist Party's International Department, led an art troupe to Pyongyang to attend an arts festival, according to China's Foreign Ministry. Kim made an unannounced trip to Beijing last month ahead of potentially breakthrough meetings with South Korean President Moon Jae-in and U.S. President Donald Trump. Kim's trip, during which he met with Chinese President Xi Jinping, was considered an attempt to repair traditionally warm ties with China that have deteriorated over North Korea's

development of ballistic missile and nuclear weapons technology and China's enforcement of United Nations economic sanctions.

Indian protesters seek end to sexual violence against women

NEW DELHI (AP)—Thousands of people protested across India on Sunday to seek an end to sexual violence against women, which has been on the rise in the country. Carrying banners and placards, protesters marched in New Delhi, Mumbai and other cities, demanding that India's government quickly prosecute rape suspects. Candlelight vigils were also held in some places. The outrage was triggered by the rape and murder of an 8-year-old girl in the Indian-controlled portion of Kashmir and the abduction and rape of a teenage girl in India's northern Uttar Pradesh state. Many protesters expressed particular anger at India's ruling Hindu nationalist party for initially siding with the accused in the Kashmir case. The young victim was a Muslim and the

accused are Hindus. A total of at least nine suspects, including a lawmaker from the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party and four police officials, have been arrested in the two cases.

China, Japan resume economic talks after 8-year hiatus

TOKYO (AP)—China and Japan have resumed high-level economic talks after a hiatus of nearly eight years in a sign of improving ties in their often-frosty relationship. The Japan-China High-Level Economic Dialogue was being held Monday in Tokyo for the first time since August 2010. The Chinese side was led by Foreign Minister Wang Yi, the first visit by a Chinese foreign minister for bilateral talks since 2009. Asia's two largest economies have reason to cooperate in the face of President Donald Trump's moves to impose tariffs on imports from their countries and his demands that they open their markets more to American exports. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is headed to the United States this week to meet Trump.

World

Syria's allies say airstrikes undercut political resolution

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)—The leaders of Russia, Iran and the Hezbollah group in Lebanon said Sunday that Western airstrikes on their ally, Syria, have complicated prospects for a political settlement to the country's seven-year conflict.

A day after the U.S., Britain and France bombarded sites they said were linked to a chemical weapons program, Syrian President Bashar Assad appeared briefly on state TV, seemingly unfazed by the military action—and even reportedly in high spirits.

Assad told a group of visiting Russian lawmakers that the strikes were accompanied by a campaign of “lies and misinformation” against Syria and Russia in the U.N. Security Council.

Moscow and Damascus are waging the same “battles” against terrorism and “to protect international law based on respect of the sovereignty of countries and the wills of people,” Assad said in comments carried by state media, an apparent jab at the three Western allies.

Russian lawmaker Dmitry Sablin, who met with Assad, said he appeared upbeat and believed the airstrikes would unify the country.

Russia and Iran have called the action a “military crime” and “act of aggression.” The



Syrians walk up stairs of a bridge in Damascus, Syria, Sunday, April 15, 2018.

AP

U.N. Security Council rejected a Russian resolution calling for condemnation of the “aggression” by the U.S., France and Britain.

Russian President Vladimir Putin spoke by phone with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, and they agreed the Western airstrikes were an “illegal action ... adversely impacting prospects for political

settlement in Syria,” a Kremlin statement said.

Putin said the actions violated the U.N. Charter and if they continue, “it will inevitably entail chaos in international relations,” the statement said.

The official IRNA news agency quoted Rouhani as saying The U.S. and “some Western countries do not want Syria to reach perma-

nent stability.”

Iran and Russia should not allow the “fire of a new tension” to flare up in the region, Rouhani said, adding that the airstrikes were an “invasion” aimed at “emboldening defeated terrorists,” IRNA reported.

Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of Lebanon's Hezbollah group that has hundreds of fighters backing Assad's forces, said the airstrikes failed to “terrorize or break the spirits” of Syria and its allies.

Instead, he said, the attack bolstered the confidence of the Syrian army and its allies, as well as probably

sinking the already-faltering U.N.-backed peace process on Syria in Geneva.

“If the goal was to pressure Syria to expedite a political solution, I think what happened will complicate the political solution and will strain international relations and the Geneva track, if not torpedo Geneva altogether,” Nasrallah told an election rally in Lebanon.

Nasrallah said there is no chemical program in Syria, and he likened the attacks in Syria to the West's concern over Iran's nuclear program.

U.S. Marine Lt. Gen. Kenneth F. McKenzie, director of the Joint Staff at the Penta-

gon, said the allied airstrikes “took out the heart” of Assad's chemical weapons arsenal. When pressed, however, he acknowledged that some unspecified portion of Assad's chemical arms infrastructure was not targeted.

Assad denies he has used chemical weapons, and the U.S. has yet to present evidence of what it says led to the allied action: a chlorine gas attack on civilians in Douma on April 7 that killed more than 40 people. The U.S. says it suspects that sarin gas also was used.

A team from the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons is in Syria to investigate the Douma incident and was expected to visit the town. Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister Faisal Mikdad met with members of the watchdog group in their Damascus hotel Sunday.

The government regained full control of Douma on Saturday following a surrender deal with the rebels in the town east of Damascus. It later deployed another 5,000 security forces there.

Russian military police had been deployed in Douma, raising complaints from the Syrian opposition that evidence of chemical weapons use might no longer be found.

Douma was the last rebel holdout in the eastern Ghouta suburbs, the target of a government offensive in February and March that killed hundreds and displaced tens of thousands.

France, meanwhile, has reached out to Russia, urging it to join renewed peace efforts.

Arab leaders meet to unify ranks with eye on Iran, Jerusalem

DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia (AP)—Saudi Arabia used its perch as host of an annual gathering of Arab leaders on Sunday to push for a unified stance against rival Iran as the regional powerhouses vie for the upper hand in wars in Syria and Yemen.

Saudi King Salman told leaders from across the 22-member Arab League that Iran was to blame for instability and meddling in the region. He said Yemeni rebel Houthis, backed by Iran, had fired 116 missiles at the kingdom since Saudi Arabia went to war in Yemen three years ago to try and roll back Houthi gains there.

The summit took place in the oil-rich eastern Saudi city of Dhahran, a location that may have been selected by the kingdom to avoid cross-border Houthi missile strikes that have targeted the capital, Riyadh, and southern border cities.

While locked in proxy conflicts in Yemen and Syria, Saudi Arabia and Iran also back opposing groups in Lebanon,

Bahrain and Iraq.

The summit this year takes place after the U.S., Britain and France launched dozens of strikes early Saturday at sites they said were linked to Syrian chemical weapons program. President Bashar Assad and his close ally, Russia, have denied government forces ever used such weapons.

Arab League Secretary-General Ahmed Aboul-Gheit said Assad's government and “international players trying to achieve their own strategic political goals” bear responsibility for the crisis there.

“Regional interference in Arab affairs has reached an unprecedented degree. And first of these is the Iranian interference, the aim of which is not for the well-being of the Arabs or their interests,” he said.

The Saudi monarch made no reference to Syria in his remarks before Arab leaders amid divisions within the region-wide body over support for the U.S.-led airstrikes on Syria. The kingdom, as well as Bahrain and Qatar, have

issued statements backing Saturday's strikes on military targets in Syria. More wary of the widening conflict are countries like Egypt, Iraq and Lebanon.

A final statement by the 22-member states refrained from supporting or criticizing those strikes. The league said it condemns the use of chemical weapons, but did not lay direct blame on any one party.

Assad was not invited to the summit, though most heads of state from across the Middle East and North Africa attended the Arab League meeting, including Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, who is wanted by the International Criminal Court for alleged war crimes in Darfur.

At the start of the summit, Aboul-Gheit lamented a lack of consensus among Arab states on regional security.

“The crises burning in some corners of the Arab world today... cast a shadow over the safety and security over the entire region,” Aboul-Gheit said. “These take a toll on the national security of all of us.”

Huge rally in Barcelona to demand jailed separatists go free

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)—Hundreds of thousands of Catalan separatists rallied in downtown Barcelona on Sunday to demand the release of high-profile secessionist leaders being held in pre-trial detention.

Protesters waved Catalan separatist flags behind a huge banner that read “for rights and liberties, for democracy and unity, we want them back home!”

The demonstration was organized by two pro-independence grassroots groups, the National Catalan Assembly and Omnium, whose presidents are among the nine separatists in prison awaiting trial for their roles in last year's failed breakaway bid by the northeastern Spanish region.

The regional chapters of

Spain's two leading labor unions, along with other civil society groups, supported the protest despite the complaints from some members who don't want secession for Catalonia. Barcelona police said 315,000 people participated in the protest.

“The majority of Catalans, regardless of their political position, agree that pre-trial jail is not justified,” said regional UGT union leader Camil Ros. “What we as labor unions are asking for now is dialogue.”

The secession movement in the wealthy region has plunged Spain into its deepest institutional crisis in decades.

Separatist lawmakers defied court orders and held an ad-hoc referendum on independence in October.

Their subsequent declaration of independence for the region led to a crackdown by Spanish authorities acting to defend the Spanish Constitution, which declares the nation “indivisible.”

Pro-independence parties retained a slim majority in Catalonia's parliament after an election in December, but courts have blocked their attempts to elect as regional chief any lawmaker who is either behind bars or has fled the country.

The latest opinion poll published by the Catalan government in February said that support for independence had decreased to 40 percent from near 49 percent in October. The poll surveyed 1,200 people and had a margin of error of 2.8 percent.

Focus

By **JOSEF FEDERMAN** and
DAN PERRY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALONG THE ISRAEL-GAZA BORDER (AP)—

The flareup of deadly violence in Gaza is of a new kind, even in the inventive annals of Middle East conflicts: Israeli soldiers shooting at Palestinian demonstrators burning tires and hurling firebombs across what looks like an international border, inflicting casualties while claiming concerns of a mass breach of the barrier.

But viewed another way, it's just the latest reflection of basic facts on the ground: the situation for the 2 million people of Gaza is extraordinarily harsh and difficult to resolve. It's not surprising so many would risk death by converging on the border fence, which has now happened three Fridays in a row, with dozens killed and hundreds injured.

By and large the people of Gaza—over two-thirds of them descended from refugees from what is now Israel—cannot leave their tiny strip of arid land along the Mediterranean coast. Anger toward Israel runs deep, yet dependence is great.

Israel blocks Gazans to the north and east, controlling who and what goes in and out. It blockades their waters to the west and prevents construction of sea and airports, with Egypt completing the blockade to the south.

Israel's argument is that Hamas, the militant group that controls Gaza,

will use materials that come into the strip for building rockets, making bombs and digging attack tunnels. The fear is well-founded.

Israel also severely restricts Gazans leaving the territory in a policy it defends on security grounds, but which often looks punitive. Every exit, even to cross Israel en route to Jordan and beyond for medical, academic, professional or personal purposes, requires the approval of Israel—or Egypt, where the anti-Islamist government also deeply distrusts Hamas.

Israel and the West Bank-based Palestinian Authority, expelled by Hamas from Gaza in 2007, largely control power supplies. There are just a few hours of electricity a day.

Hamas remains committed to conflict with Israel, and attempts to pressure the population against Hamas are questionable. Gazans simply don't have the means to overthrow the well-armed group, even if they so wanted.

Meanwhile, half the strip's workforce is unemployed. Much of the vast destruction from the last war with Israel, in 2014, still has not been rebuilt. Public entertainment is almost nonexistent and alcohol, in the name of Islam, is banned.

Adding insult to injury, the Palestinians do not have a currency. The few bills of cash in Gazan pockets are Israeli shekels emblazoned with the likenesses of Jewish religious and Zionist political

figures.

Hamas says the border protests will continue through May 15, the anniversary of Israel's founding and the “nabka” (catastrophe) for the Palestinians—a day of mourning to mark the mass displacement of hundreds of thousands of people who fled or were expelled from their homes during the war surrounding Israel's creation. It has signaled it may attempt a mass border breach, just as Israel fears. With Israel digging in its heels, and only muted debate in Israel over the high casualty count, bloodshed is likely to continue.

Here's a look at how the players in this tragic scenario have reached this point:

HAMAS

Hamas rose to global prominence with 1990s suicide bombings aimed at scuttling the Israeli-Palestinian peace process and during the second Palestinian uprising in the early 2000s, killing hundreds of Israelis. It built up a formidable arsenal of rockets and other weapons. Israel's unilateral withdrawal from Gaza in 2005, removing all troops and settlers after a 38-year presence, cleared the way for Hamas to violently seize control of Gaza in 2007 from its rival, the internationally recognized Palestinian Authority, a year after winning elections.

Israel, which along with its Western allies considers Hamas a terrorist group, blockaded the territory along with Egypt, battering the meager economy. Jobs are hard to come by, Gaza's beaches are polluted by untreated sewage and tap water is undrinkable. Hamas,

meanwhile, stifles dissent, bans public gatherings and promotes its conservative Islamic values.

Hamas also has fought three wars with Israel, sparked in part by sustained rocket fire on Israel. Israel, the Palestinian Authority and the international community have called on Hamas to disarm. But the group, founded in the late 1980s as a branch of the regionwide Muslim Brotherhood, has held on to its violent ideology, even as conditions deteriorate. ISRAEL

Israel claims some humanitarian credit for keeping border crossings open, allowing food, consumer goods and some construction materials to flow into the territory and some Gazans to leave. But sweeping export restrictions cripple the economy, and getting a travel permit is extremely difficult. Applicants are often called in for interrogations by Israel's Shin Bet security agency. Many are rejected on vague security grounds without explanation.

Israel says it does its best to ease the blockade given the security challenges. It accuses Hamas of trying to exploit and recruit civilians—a charge Hamas reciprocates against Israel.

During the three wars over the past decade, Israel inflicted heavy damage on Hamas, but also came under intense international criticism for the high civilian death toll and vast damage to Gaza's infrastructure. Toppling Hamas seems unlikely and the prospect of another war, with its uncertain results, has little appeal to Israel—

as does renewed full occupation.

EGYPT

For years, Egypt played a double game with Gaza, restricting travel through its borders while tolerating a thriving cross-border smuggling industry. This allowed Hamas to sneak in weapons and consumer goods, enriching supporters who operated the tunnels and undermining the Israeli blockade.

Since taking power in 2014, Egypt's President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi has taken a tougher line. He cracked down on the smuggling and largely shuttered Gaza's border crossing with Egypt, traditionally the main exit point for Gazans traveling abroad. Last year, the border was open for just over 30 days.

Egypt has defended its actions on security grounds, noting it's fighting an Islamic insurgency in Sinai, along Gaza's border. At times, it has accused Hamas of aiding militants in Egypt.

But el-Sissi's tough policies and close security relations with Israel have hurt his credibility as a broker between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority. Repeated reconciliation attempts, sponsored by Egypt, have failed.

PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY

For years, President Mahmoud Abbas, based in the West Bank, tried to retain influence in Gaza by paying salaries to tens of thousands of former civil servants and funding fuel shipments from Israel to generate Gaza's electricity. The unintended result: Abbas provided a safety net that

helped keep Hamas in power.

A frustrated Abbas has taken a tougher line over the past year, scaling back electricity subsidies, reducing salaries of his former employees and now threatening to cut them off altogether.

These tough measures have added to the hardship in Gaza but had little effect on Hamas. A renewed attempt at reconciliation has deadlocked over Hamas' refusal to disarm, collapsing last month after a bombing on the convoy of Abbas' prime minister during a stop in Gaza.

WORLD COMMUNITY

Much of the international donor community has boycotted Hamas, branded as a terrorist group. But it has also poured hundreds of millions of dollars of humanitarian aid into Gaza, at times at Israel's request, in effect propping up Hamas. With little to show for their efforts, weary donors have scaled back their contributions in recent years and given a lukewarm response to Israel's latest appeal to send more aid.

The U.S. has also cut some \$300 million in money for UNRWA, the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees and their descendants. Over half of Gaza's people rely on UNRWA for assistance. The agency is now scrambling to try to make up the funding gap, raising the danger of a new humanitarian crisis.

Federman, the AP's bureau chief for Israel and the Palestinian territories, has covered the region since 2003. Follow him on Twitter at www.twitter.com/joseffederman. Perry, who reported from Cairo, is the AP's Middle East editor and has covered the region since the 1990s. Follow him on Twitter at www.twitter.com/perry-dan.

AP ANALYSIS:

Gaza

are-up driven by deep misery in strip



AP
Palestinian protesters wave Syrian and Palestinian flags as they chant slogans against U.S. President Trump during demonstrations following a wave of U.S., British and French military strikes to punish President Bashar Assad for suspected chemical attack against civilians, in the West Bank city of Nablus, Saturday, April 14, 2018.

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW:

2018 Nissan Armada: The beauty of this beast is value

By ROBERT DUFFER
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Big has never been so bountiful. That's a challenge for the 2018 Nissan Armada full-size SUV.

The flagship of Nissan's flotilla of crossovers contends in a crowded class of redesigned family leviathans spanning from GM's 2015 family of full-sizers to the upstream 2018 Lincoln Navigator to the forthcoming Mercedes GLS. The only stale one on the market is the Toyota Sequoia, which is appreciated for its rugged old-school truckness.

The redesigned Armada offers value with refinement and capability. It's not as flashy or expensive as the competition, and the in-car technology carries far too many buttons to be intuitive, but it checks all the important boxes for an eight-seat truck-based family hauler.

Moving away from the Titan pickup truck platform it shared since its inception in 2004, Armada now uses a more refined platform shared with the Patrol SUV sold elsewhere in the world and the up-market Infiniti QX80.

Visually it looks similar to the QX80 but starts at \$20,000 less. It's over an inch longer, presumably due to the rear bumper, though the wheelbase and height have shrunk by more than 2 inches, making it look more proportionate than the bulky outgoing model. Add the dark chrome accents of the tester for \$3,000, including 20-inch dark chrome wheels, and the similarities to its platform-mate are even more striking.

The similarities end on the inside, though the Armada is



The 2018 Nissan Armada in Platinum Reserve trim is an 8-seat AWD full-size SUV powered by a 390-horsepower 5.6-liter V-8 engine with 7-speed transmission capable of towing 8,500 pounds. It costs \$65,400.

TNS

still very nicely equipped in the top-of-the-line Platinum Reserve trim level. Because it rides high even in the lowest seating position, and because the rear headrests can limit rear visibility, Nissan uses an "intelligent rearview mirror" which has a camera view from the top of the rear liftgate projected onto the actual mirror, in addition to the standard backup camera in the 8-inch touch screen. Instead of glancing in the mirror and seeing a gaggle of cackling tweens, for

instance, you'll see what traffic is behind you and in the blind spot before changing lanes.

Power liftgate comes with the Platinum, so closing it from the driver's seat when the kids forget is simple. Third-row 60/40 split seats also get the power treatment for easy flat-floor storage, and the handle on the side of the second row 60/40 split seats is durable yet easy enough to be operated by grade schoolers getting in the third row.

Those same grade school-

NUTS & BOLTS

2018 Nissan Armada at a glance

- **Vehicle type:** Full-size SUV
- **Base price:** \$62,090
- **As tested:** \$65,400 (excluding \$1,295 destination)
- **Mpg:** 13 city, 18 highway
- **Engine:** 5.6-liter Endurance V-8
- **Transmission:** Seven-speed automatic
- **Parting shot:** Good balance of value and refinement.

ers might have too much fun playing with the reclining third-row seats, until they are lulled to sleep on the holiday road. Headroom and legroom is ample back there for under 6-footers, while the second row is one of the most spacious in the full-size class. It is a split bench seat that doesn't slide up or back, however, and getting out from the third row with the seat-top latch requires a bit more muscular hand dexterity. Second row slides forward for easy third-

row ingress, and lays flat for a full flat floor for transporting folding tables and chairs, and a pinata or two.

Despite being powered by a Titanesque 390-horsepower 5.6-liter V-8 engine that Nissan calls best in class, the ride is surprisingly refined and quiet. Acceleration is lovely for such a behemoth, but it steers and handles exactly like what it is. The seven-speed transmission replacing the outgoing five-speed is smooth and predictable, and the four-wheel-drive powertrain as a whole churns out 394 pound-feet of torque, good enough to tow 8,500 pounds. Direct injection and variable valve timing combine with the additional gears to improve fuel economy by 1 mpg to 15 mpg combined, though we averaged 17 mpg at 34 mph. GM and Ford's full-size products do it better at 18 mpg combined, which makes fuel economy the biggest deficit of the Armada.

The center stack controls aren't far behind. After a week with the Armada, there was no greater understanding of the layout logic, which includes trip odometer and vehicle info display buttons mounted high up on either side of the gauge cluster. The narrow touch screen is too far removed to want to touch, and a button for every function leads to a lot of unsafe time looking down to figure out which does what.

That's too bad, because the overall feel of the Armada is refined value, even if it doesn't feel as fresh as the competition.

Robert Duffer is the editor of the Chicago's Tribune's auto section. Readers may contact him at Chicago Tribune, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Fourth Floor, Chicago IL 60611 or rduffer@chicagotribune.com

Under the Hood: Keeping your vehicle's blind zone system in working order

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Q During the past several months I've encountered a "side blind zone system unavailable" warning while driving my Chevrolet Tahoe. Since this only happened twice, I figured it's not going to be very useful to take it in to the shop. Can you explain how this "system" works and what may be going wrong?

—Ben W.

A Your blind zone warning system consists of left and right objects sensors, each concealed behind the rear bumper fascia (painted plastic trim at the bumper corners), driver and passenger door modules, and driver and passenger (outside) mirrors, which display the alert indicator.

Your sensors use radar (electromagnetic waves that bounce off solid objects and return an echo indicating there's something there) to detect a vehicle or object approximately in the vehicle's 3:00-5:30 and 6:30-9:00 o'clock positions out to about 11 feet, and post a serial data message that is received by the door

module on that side. The outside mirror indicator is then requested by the door module. If the turn signal for that side is on, a more urgent flashing message is displayed. Other carmakers may use cameras in the mirrors to detect and classify objects or a combination of several methods to get this done.

Reliable sensor operation requires reasonably clear weather, a clean sensor surface, and an occasional object occurring to prove-out radar function. Heavy rain, dirty sensors, snow build-up or perhaps towing a trailer or attaching a bike rack may cause missing alerts or suspended operation. Also, if you are driving in area without roadside features, perhaps the desert, and no vehicles approach for a period of about 15 to 25 minutes, the system may indicate a disabled or unavailable message as it is uncertain of radar functionality. In this case the system will reinitialize at the next key cycle.

If your warning message incidents match one of the scenarios mentioned above, there may be nothing to fix, other than keeping sensor surfaces (and/or cameras, on other vehicles) clean. If not, a professional-grade scan tool can be employed to communicate independently with each sensor to prove-out consistent functionality.

Blind spot warning systems can also be much more sophisticated, perhaps shaking the steering wheel or applying opposite side brakes (gently steers vehicle away) should you begin to turn into a presumably occupied lane. Honda's system quickly brings up a camera view on the center display of the appropriate blind spot as you operate a turn signal.

For those of us driving vehicles without this feature, try adjusting the side mirrors like this: Driver's side: Lean left with your head almost touching the door glass, adjust the left mirror so the side of the car is barely visible at the right side of the mirror, or perhaps up to 1/3 of the total mirror image. Right side: Lean right, head near the centerline of the vehicle, adjust right mirror so the side of the vehicle is barely visible at the left edge of the mirror—or up to 1/3 view. Adding a small convex stick-on mirror in the lower inside corner of each mirror can also help mixing it up with a vehicle, object or pedestrian in our intended path.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at bradbergholdt@gmail.com; he cannot make personal replies.

Life & Style

Stapleton, Lambert, Underwood and Vegas win at ACM Awards

By MESFIN FEKADU
AP MUSIC WRITER

The 2018 Academy of Country Music Awards marked a memorable night for the victims of the massive Las Vegas shooting, comeback queen Carrie Underwood and triple-winners Chris Stapleton and Miranda Lambert.

Jason Aldean paid tribute to the 58 people who died at the Route 91 Harvest Festival in Las Vegas last October when he was named entertainer of the year Sunday for the third consecutive time.

"It's been a rough year," Aldean said, thanking those "that showed us love and support over the last six months."

The ACMs brought the country music community back to Vegas six months after the deadly tragedy. Aldean was performing onstage when the shooting occurred.

"You guys are in our hearts always," Aldean said. "We love Las Vegas. Vegas strong."

Though Aldean beat out Stapleton for the top honor, Stapleton's Sunday was met with many high points: His wife, Morgane, gave birth to twin boys; he celebrated his 40th birthday; and the leading nominee, who didn't attend the show, won male vocalist of the year and album of the year, where he won twice as a singer and producer.

Underwood also had a big night, returning to the stage

like an A-List veteran in her first television appearance since injuring her face and wrist last year due to a fall at her home. Her powerhouse vocals shined when she performed her new song, "Cry Pretty," earning a rousing—and long—standing ovation from the audience.

Immediately following the performance, she won vocal event of the year for the dance-infused country song, "The Fighter," with Keith Urban.

"I am still kind of shaking right now," she added, appearing teary-eyed.

"Seeing her stand up there and be so beautiful, she's one of the greatest singers of all-time in any genre of music," Lambert said backstage of Underwood. "I am just proud of her and I know how strong she is and how hard she's worked."

But Lambert's hard work also paid off: She made history when she surpassed Brooks and Dunn as the most decorated act in ACM history with 32 wins on Sunday. Lambert won her ninth consecutive female vocalist of the year trophy and won twice for song of the year—as the performer and co-writer of "Tin Man."

"I cannot believe this. I really can't. ...I love country music. It's my entire life," Lambert said onstage. "I will never ever take it for granted."

Florida Georgia Line's Tyler Hubbard wore an all-red ensemble and Brian Kelley was in all-white when they hit



Carrie Underwood performs "Cry Pretty" at the 53rd annual Academy of Country Music Awards at the MGM Grand Garden Arena on Sunday, April 15, 2018, in Las Vegas.

AP

the stage with pop singer Bebe Rexha to perform the massive hit "Meant to Be," which is spending its 19th week on top of Billboard's Hot country songs chart. It ties Leroy Van Dyke's "Walk On By" as the third longest-running song of all-time on the chart.

The longest-running No. 1 song of all-time on the country charts, Sam Hunt's "Body Like a Back Road," won sin-

gle record of the year at the ACMs; Hunt didn't attend the show.

Little Big Town sang Elton John's "Rocket Man" in celebration of the icon's new album, "Restoration," which features country singers covering his songs. Kane Brown and Lauren Alaina were impressive when they sang their duet, "What Ifs." Kenny Chesney, Toby Keith, Kelsea

Ballerini, Alan Jackson, Lady Antebellum and Dierks Bentley also performed.

McEntire, who performed with Kelly Clarkson, hosted the three-hour show a year after Bryan and Bentley did the job.

"It takes one woman to do the job of two men," she said, earning a rousing applause.

Old Dominion won vocal group of the year, besting

WINNERS' LIST

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A list of winners at the 53rd annual Academy of Country Music Awards, held Sunday at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas.

- **Entertainer of the year:** Jason Aldean
- **Album of the year:** Chris Stapleton, "From A Room: Volume 1"
- **Single record of the year:** Sam Hunt, "Body Like A Back Road"
- **Song of the year:** "Tin Man," Miranda Lambert
- **Male vocalist of the year:** Chris Stapleton
- **Female vocalist of the year:** Miranda Lambert
- **Vocal Duo:** Brothers Osborne
- **Vocal group of the year:** Old Dominion
- **Vocal event of the year:** Keith Urban and Carrie Underwood, "The Fighter"
- **New female vocalist of the year:** Lauren Alaina
- **New male vocalist of the year:** Brett Young
- **New vocal duo or group of the year:** Midland

Little Big Town and Lady Antebellum. "This is heavy in a lot of ways," lead singer Matthew Ramsey said, holding the trophy in his hand.

"We're so lucky. Look at us, look at us!" he said about his bandmates, all dressed in trendy suits. "We look good. We feel good. We're friends. And we're having a ball."

"Thank you for letting us make music."



In this May 15, 2006, file photo, retired Marine Gunner Sgt. R. Lee Ermei gives a few Marines a show outside New River Air Station's Staff NCO club in Jacksonville, N.C.

'Full Metal Jacket' actor R. Lee Ermei dies at 74

LOS ANGELES (AP)—R. Lee Ermei, a former Marine who made a career in Hollywood playing hard-nosed military men like Gunnery Sgt. Hartman in Stanley Kubrick's "Full Metal Jacket," has died.

Ermei's longtime manager Bill Rogin says he died Sunday morning from pneumonia-related complications. He was 74.

The Kanas native was nominated for a Golden Globe Award for his memorable performance in "Full Metal Jacket," in which he immortalized lines such as: "What is your major malfunction?"

His co-stars Matthew Modine and Vincent D'Onofrio tweeted their condolences Sunday evening.

"#SemperFidelis Always faithful. Always loyal. Do not go gentle into that good night. Rage, rage against the dying of the light," Modine wrote, quoting the Dylan Thomas poem.

"RIP amigo. PVT. Joker."

Vincent D'Onofrio added: "Ermei was the real deal. The knowledge of him passing brings back wonderful memories of our time together."

Born Ronald Lee Ermei in 1944, Ermei served 11 years in the Marine Corps and spent 14 months in Vietnam and then in Okinawa, Japan, where he became staff sergeant. His first film credit was as a helicopter pilot in Francis Ford Coppola's "Apocalypse Now," which was quickly followed by a part in "The Boys in Company C" as a drill instructor.

He raked in more than 60 credits in film and television across his long career in the industry, often playing authority figures in everything from "Se7en" to "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre" remake.

The part he would become most well-known for, in "Full Metal Jacket," wasn't even

originally his. Ermei had been brought on as a technical consultant for the 1987 film, but he had his eyes on the role of the brutal gunnery sergeant and filmed his own audition tape of him yelling out insults while tennis balls flew at him. An impressed Kubrick gave him the role.

Kubrick told Rolling Stone that 50 percent of Ermei's dialogue in the film was his own.

"In the course of hiring the marine recruits, we interviewed hundreds of guys. We lined them all up and did an improvisation of the first meeting with the drill instructor. They didn't know what he was going to say, and we could see how they reacted. Lee came up with, I don't know, 150 pages of insults," Kubrick said.

According to Kubrick, Ermei also had a terrible car accident one night in the middle of production and was out for

four and half months with broken ribs.

Ermei would also go on to voice the little green army man Sarge in the "Toy Story" films. He also played track and field coach and Nike co-founder Bill Bowerman in "Prefontaine," General Kramer in "Toy Soldiers" and Mayor Tilman in "Mississippi Burning."

Ermei also hosted the History Channel series "Mail Call" and "Lock N' Load with R. Lee Ermei" and was a board member for the National Rifle Association, as well as a spokesman for Glock.

"He will be greatly missed by all of us," Rogin said. "It is a terrible loss that nobody was prepared for."

Rogin says that while his characters were often hard and principled, the real Ermei was a family man and a kind and gentle soul who supported the men and women who serve.

Comey: 'Possible' that Russians have leverage over Trump

WASHINGTON (AP)—Former FBI Director James Comey says he thinks it's possible the Russians have compromising information on President Donald Trump, that there is "some evidence of obstruction of justice" in the president's actions and that Trump is "morally unfit" for office.

Comey's comments in an ABC News interview that aired Sunday were almost certain to escalate his war of words with the president and further erode a relationship marked by open hostility and name-calling. Hours before the interview aired, the president, who fired Comey last year, unleashed a Twitter outburst that labeled Comey "slippery," suggested he should be put in jail and branded him "the WORST FBI Director in history, by far!"

Comey's televised remarks, coupled with the release of his forthcoming book, offer his version of events surrounding his firing and the investigations into Russian election meddling and Hillary Clinton's email practices. Several

of the episodes he describes in detail, including a private conversation about former White House national security adviser Michael Flynn, are central to special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation and his recollections are presumably valuable for prosecutors examining whether the president's actions constitute obstruction of justice.

The FBI director, who until his firing last May led an investigation into possible ties between Russia and the Trump campaign, acknowledged that it was "stunning" to think Russia could have damaging information on an American president. But he said in Trump's case, he could not discount the possibility that the president had been compromised.

"These are more words I never thought I'd utter about a president of the United States, but it's possible," Comey told ABC News' chief anchor George Stephanopoulos.

He also answered "possibly" when asked if the president was attempting to ob-



Comey

struct justice when he cleared the Oval Office of other officials last February before encouraging him to close the investigation into Flynn, who by that point was suspected of lying to the FBI about his Russian contacts. The retired general pleaded guilty last December and is now cooperating with Mueller's investigation.

Comey also said he believed that Trump was "morally unfit" to be president and that he treated women like "pieces of meat."

"A person who sees moral equivalence in Charlottesville, who talks about and treats women like they're pieces of meat, who lies constantly about matters big and small and insists the American people believe it—that person's not fit to be president of the United States, on moral grounds," Comey said.

Trump on Sunday rejected

Comey's assertion that the president had sought his loyalty at a January 2017 dinner, saying "I hardly even knew this guy. Just another of his many lies." He also suggested Comey should be imprisoned, saying, "how come he gave up Classified Information (jail), why did he lie to Congress (jail)." There is no indication Comey is under investigation for doing either.

Asked if the president wanted the Justice Department to investigate Comey, White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Sunday on ABC's "This Week" that she was not aware of a specific request. But, she said, "if they feel there was any wrongdoing, they should certainly look into that just as they do on a number of other topics."

The president's attacks on Comey began even before the interview aired.

He seized on an excerpt shown Saturday in which Comey said his belief that Clinton would beat Trump in the 2016 presidential race was probably a factor in his

decision to disclose, just days before the election, a renewed investigation into her emails. Comey, Trump tweeted, "was making decisions based on the fact that he thought she was going to win, and he wanted a job. Slimeball!"

That argument was startling given that Comey's handling of the email investigation, including his disclosure shortly before the election that the FBI had reopened its probe, enraged Democrats. After Clinton's loss, many Democrats blamed Comey, and Clinton herself has said it hurt her election prospects.

Comey again defended his actions, saying he made what he thought was the best decision at the time.

He said he did not remember "consciously thinking" about the election results as he decided to disclose that the FBI had reopened its investigation into candidate Clinton's email use. But, he acknowledged, "I was operating in a world where Hillary Clinton was going to beat Donald Trump, and so I'm sure that it was a factor."

Trove of author Ray Bradbury's papers set for preservation

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Ray Bradbury won over generations of readers to science fiction with "Fahrenheit 451" and other works during a writing career that spanned much of the 20th Century and produced a mountain of manuscripts, correspondence and memorabilia.

That sprawling collection, much of which Bradbury's family donated after his death in 2012 at age 91, is now entering a long-running preservation project at its home on the campus of Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis.

The Center for Ray Bradbury Studies, which is devoted to the study of the science fiction-fantasy author's works, won a \$50,000 grant this month from the National Endowment for the Humanities to begin planning the giant archive's conservation.

"This is a national treasure and we have the great, good fortune to be able to preserve his legacy here for years to come," said Jonathan Eller, who befriended Bradbury in the 1980s and directs the center, which he co-founded in 2007.

Although Bradbury wrote his most famous titles in the mid-20th century, including "Fahrenheit 451," a novel about a dystopian future in which "firemen" hunt down and burn books to keep society in a state of ignorance, Eller said many of his works remain relevant because of their warnings about the misuse of technology and the importance of safeguarding the human imagination.

"He stands as much as any author for freedom of the imagination. With 'Fahrenheit 451,' which was written when there was a climate of fear in America and McCarthyism, and other works, he's still synonymous with freedom of the imagination," he said.

Bradbury's major works, including "The Martian Chronicles" and "The Illustrated Man," remain in print and HBO will next month air a version of "Fahrenheit" starring Michael Shannon, Michael B. Jordan and Sofia Boutella.

Meanwhile, the Bradbury center, which is near downtown Indianapolis and features a replica of the basement office in Los Angeles where the author wrote for decades, is preparing to delve into the collection he left behind for what's expected to be a yearslong preservation effort.

In a close race, 'Rampage' takes No. 1 from 'A Quiet Place'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—After a wobbly start, Dwayne Johnson muscled his way to a No. 1 opening for "Rampage"—but just barely. Close on its heels was the word-of-mouth sensation "A Quiet Place" in its second week in theaters, and not too far behind that was the Blumhouse horror "Truth or Dare" in a competitive weekend at the box office.

Warner Bros. said Sunday that "Rampage" earned an estimated \$34.5 million in its first weekend in North American theaters, and dominated internationally too with \$114.1 million from 61 territories.

Based on the classic arcade game, "Rampage" carried a sizable budget of at least \$115 million. Although "Rampage" pulled in mixed reviews (it's at 50 percent on Rotten Tomatoes), audiences were more enthusiastic, giving it an A-CinemaScore.

"I wasn't sure how I was going to feel on Friday. But when I look at our global number of \$148.6 million, there's a lot to be proud of for Dwayne Johnson," said Warner Bros. president of domestic distribution Jeff Goldstein. "Talk about a real closer, he knows how to bring it home."

That Friday, of course, was Friday the 13th and audiences had the choice between two wide-release nail-biters to spend their entertainment dollars on—the buzzy thriller "A Quiet Place" that dominated the charts last weekend, and the new horror from the shop behind "Get Out" and "Split,"



This image released by Warner Bros. shows Dwayne Johnson in a scene from "Rampage." AP

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. "Rampage," \$34.5 million (\$114.1 million international).
2. "A Quiet Place," \$32.6 million (\$22.3 million international).
3. "Truth or Dare," \$19.1 million (\$2.6 million international).
4. "Ready Player One," \$11.2 million (\$33.8 million international).
5. "Blockers," \$10.3 million (\$3.9 million international).
6. "Black Panther," \$5.3 million (\$2.6 million international).
7. "Isle of Dogs," \$5 million (\$2.3 million international).
8. "I Can Only Imagine," \$3.8 million (\$40,000 international).
9. "Tyler Perry's Acrimony," \$3.7 million.
10. "Chappaquiddick," \$3 million.

"Truth or Dare."

After its stunning debut, John Krasinski's modestly-budgeted "A Quiet Place" fell

only 35 percent in weekend two, adding \$32.6 million to its domestic total, which is now just shy of \$100 million for Paramount Pictures.

"Truth or Dare" also found a sizable audience that was mostly young (60 percent under the age of 25) and female (60 percent). The PG-13 rated pic stars "Pretty Little Liars" alum Lucy Hale.

With a budget of just \$3.5 million, the film took in a terrific \$19.1 million over the weekend—just the latest in a string of successes for the Blumhouse and Universal Pictures partnership.

"They take high quality filmmaking at micro-budgets and just consistently over-deliver," said Jim Orr, Universal's president of domestic distribution. "Everyone at Universal is just thrilled to be in business with these guys."

Orr said despite the competitive marketplace, the studio's marketing found a lane with the younger female audience

and played into the Friday the 13th release.

Sliding into fourth place was Steven Spielberg's "Ready Player One," with \$11.2 million in its third weekend, and in fifth was the R-rated comedy "Blockers," with \$10.3 million.

Also, after a limited release, Wes Anderson's stop-motion animated "Isle of Dogs" added 1,385 locations and took the No. 7 spot with \$5 million. Chloe Zhao's well-reviewed indie "The Rider" also debuted this weekend in three theaters with \$45,268.

While the success of a horror, especially a micro-budget one, isn't a surprise for the industry, big budget films like "Rampage" continue to face a complex marketplace. For box office analysts like comScore's Paul Dergarabedian, "Rampage's" performance fits into the post-"Black Panther" narrative for most would-be blockbusters that have followed the Marvel and Disney phenomenon.

"'Rampage' joins a long list of popcorn movies that have opened in the wake of 'Black Panther' to rely heavily on their international box office revenues," Dergarabedian said, citing "A Wrinkle in Time," "Tomb Raider," "Pacific Rim: Uprising" and "Ready Player One" as recent examples.

Disney and Marvel's "Black Panther" added \$5.3 million in its ninth weekend in theaters, bringing its domestic total to \$673.8 million.

It's another down weekend for the industry, too. The same weekend last year saw the massive \$98.8 million opening for "The Fate of the Furious." ComScore reports that the year to date box office is down just over 2 percent. But the tide could be turning soon.

"We're just in this lull waiting for 'Avengers: Infinity War' that is going to blow the doors off of the box office in a little less than two weeks," Dergarabedian said.

Beyonce's Coachella set includes Destiny's Child reunion

INDIO, Calif. (AP)—Beyonce has paid tribute Saturday to historically black colleges and universities and also reunited with Destiny's Child during her headlining performance at Coachella, which was delayed for a year because of her pregnancy.

Beyonce performed at two-hour set of her hits in Indio, California, where the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival is held each year. The superstar was due to perform last year but had to postpone because she was pregnant with her twins, Sir and Rumi.

Her return did not disappoint the audience with a rousing set, including paying tribute to the marching bands, the dance troupes and step teams at HBCUs. She even performed "Lift Every Voice and Sing," known as the national black anthem.

Kelly Rowland and Michelle Williams also joined her as they sang their smash "Say My Name," and husband Jay-Z also came out for a collaboration.

Beyonce is due to return for her second performance as Coachella returns for its second run next weekend.

Beyonce is due to return for her second performance as Coachella returns for its second run next weekend.

Beyonce is due to return for her second performance as Coachella returns for its second run next weekend.

Stevie Ray Vaughan's 1951 Fender fetches \$250,000 at auction



This undated file photo provided by Heritage Auctions shows an electric guitar that blues legend Stevie Ray Vaughan was given as a youth by his brother. The guitar, which Vaughan used in his first studio recording and early performances, has fetched \$250,000 at auction, on Sunday, April 15, 2018, in his hometown of Dallas.

DALLAS (AP) — The electric guitar that blues legend Stevie Ray Vaughan used in his first studio recording and early performances has fetched \$250,000 at auction in his hometown of Dallas.

Heritage Auction spokesman Eric Bradley says the winning bidder for the 1951 Fender at Sunday's auction doesn't wish to be identified immediately.

Vaughan biographer Craig Hopkins said last week that Vaughan's first professional-grade guitar has "considerable historical significance," noting the bluesman "pretty much learned his craft on" it.

It was a gift from his brother Jimmie Vaughan in the late 1960s. "Jimbo" is carved on the back.

Hopkins says Stevie Ray Vaughan, who traded the guitar away in 1971, mentioned in a 1989 interview how much he'd like to have it back.

Vaughan died in a 1990 helicopter crash. He was 35.

Engaged wrestlers John Cena and Nikki Bella break up

NEW YORK (AP)—John Cena and Nikki Bella are no longer getting ready to say "I do."

Bella tweeted Sunday that the professional wrestlers have ended their relationship and asked for privacy.

The couple had been together for six years and got engaged a year ago on live TV during a wrestling match.

They often took their relationship public, canoodling on red carpets and talking about each other in interviews.

Cena has made a successful transition from wrestling to acting, appearing in movies like "Trainwreck" and the new R-rated comedy "Blockers."

Bella stars in a reality TV show on E! called "Total Bellas" with her twin sister, Brie.

Us Weekly was first to report the breakup.

Us Weekly was first to report the breakup.



In this Tuesday, April 3, 2018, photo, John Cena, left, and Nikki Bella attend the LA Premiere of "Blockers" at the Regency Village Theatre in Los Angeles.

Auction of Zsa Zsa Gabor's personal items earns \$909,000

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Costumes, memorabilia and other items owned by late actress Zsa Zsa Gabor have sold at auction for more than \$900,000.

Heritage Auctions says that a Margaret Keane portrait of the actress was sold for \$45,000, making it the top seller at Saturday's auction.

Overall, the auction, held online and at the actress' former mansion, earned \$909,209.

A diamond and gold necklace with Gabor's catchphrase "dah-ling" sold for \$20,000.

Also up for sale was a Steinway grand piano prominently used in the Liberace HBO movie "Behind the Candelabra," which sold for nearly \$24,000.

Among the hundreds of items sold were Gabor's scripts, costumes, photographs of her with stars ranging including Johnny Carson, Cloris Leachman and Ronald and Nancy Reagan.

Gabor died in December 2016 at the age of 99.

Pulitzer Prize winners in journalism, arts to be announced

NEW YORK (AP) — The winners of the Pulitzer Prizes in journalism and the arts are set to be announced in New York City.

The winners are being revealed Monday afternoon at Columbia University.

The Pulitzer Prizes recognize the best journalism of 2017 in newspapers, magazines and websites. There are 14 categories for reporting, photography, criticism and commentary.

In the arts, prizes are awarded in seven categories, including fiction, drama and music.

The first journalism prizes were awarded in 1917, including one to the New York Tribune for an editorial on the first anniversary of the sinking of the Lusitania. That year, two daughters of abolitionist Julia Ward Howe won for a biography of their mother — at a time when women couldn't vote and the literary world was dominated by men.

The first journalism prizes were awarded in 1917, including one to the New York Tribune for an editorial on the first anniversary of the sinking of the Lusitania. That year, two daughters of abolitionist Julia Ward Howe won for a biography of their mother — at a time when women couldn't vote and the literary world was dominated by men.

The first journalism prizes were awarded in 1917, including one to the New York Tribune for an editorial on the first anniversary of the sinking of the Lusitania. That year, two daughters of abolitionist Julia Ward Howe won for a biography of their mother — at a time when women couldn't vote and the literary world was dominated by men.

The first journalism prizes were awarded in 1917, including one to the New York Tribune for an editorial on the first anniversary of the sinking of the Lusitania. That year, two daughters of abolitionist Julia Ward Howe won for a biography of their mother — at a time when women couldn't vote and the literary world was dominated by men.

Bride accuses mom of using wedding to spotlight herself

DEAR ABBY: Once I announced my engagement, my already thin, fit mother went on a diet and lost 20 pounds. My weight has always been an issue with her, and I can't believe she would draw attention to it in this way.

She called me a bridezilla because I told her I think she's trying to showboat my wedding because she's the one with the insecurity issues. I would have been happy to elope, but she insisted on this big wedding to show off to her friends and "recoup the gifts she gave to their kids."

How do we get through the next six months and keep our already fragile relationship intact?

DAUGHTER OF MOMZILLA

DEAR DAUGHTER: Weddings are supposed to be about the happy couple, not a means for a third party to "recoup" gifts she gave to her friends' children. If you feel you would be happier eloping rather than be miserable "going on with the show," that's what you and your fiancé should do. However, if you do decide to go through with the wedding, you and your mother should agree there will be no further discussion about weight —hers or yours. Period.

DEAR ABBY: I came into work Monday morning to the news that one of my co-workers had passed away the day before from a massive heart attack. I was shocked and saddened. I was also appalled that my employer posted her death on Facebook less than 24 hours later.

I don't feel that this is an appropriate forum to announce a death, and I also don't think it was my employer's responsibility to notify the world. In my opinion, the family should notify the public if they choose. Are there any rules of etiquette regarding social media and announcing a co-worker's death?

SAD NEWS IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR SAD NEWS: Of course it is the prerogative of family members to post that kind of news. Ideally, your employer should have waited an extra day or two to allow the family to get the word out. However, unless a family member complained to you about what your employer did, you shouldn't be so quick to judge.

While you have experienced a shocking loss, your boss has, too, particularly if the employee was a longtime one. That he/she shared it on social media isn't surprising these days, considering how much information is being posted online, nor was it a breach of etiquette.

DEAR ABBY: I have been with my boyfriend nearly 19 years, and we both agree that we don't want marriage. I just found out that for the last nine months he has been seeing someone else on his lunch break.

He says he loves me and doesn't want to lose me, but he loves her, too, and she is his friend. He said he would stop the affair, but because she's his friend, he won't stop texting and seeing her "as a friend."

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



Should I trust what he is saying? We don't have kids together, but we raised his two and my one together as our own.

SILENT PAIN

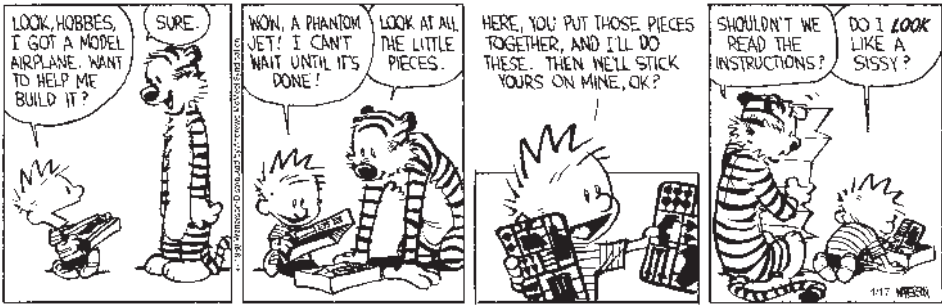
DEAR PAIN: Should you trust that your boyfriend won't resume the affair with his "friend"—or that he has stopped it? I don't think so. Although the two of you aren't formally married, you have had an understanding that lasted almost 19 years, and he has breached it. You now must decide whether you want to be part of a "threesome," and for that, you have my sympathy.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



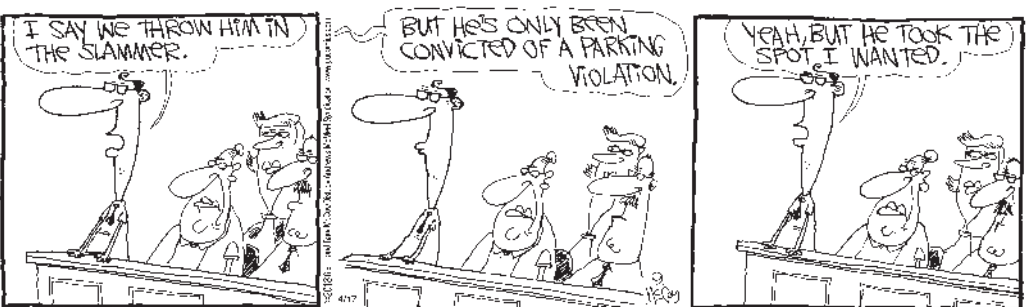
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 36 Label 37 Service charge 38 Bay, old-style 41 Morsel 42 Springy dance 45 Actress Singer 46 Joy 48 "Don't rub —!" 49 "You've got mail" 50 Valhalla VIP 51 Hunger reminder 52 British "Inc." 53 Optimum

DOWN 1 Slugger 2 Jack 3 Lawman 4 Decorate 5 Sci-fi visitor 6 Audubon subject 7 Bee follower 8 Corral, for one 9 Zhivago's love 10 Leading man? 11 "CSI" settings 16 Err 20 Soon-to-be grads 21 "Of counsel" 22 Squeak stopper 23 Resort 24 That girl 25 Zodiac animal 26 Goat's cry 27 "This — test" 28 Dog doc 29 Mag. staff 31 Showbiz job 34 Rebel Turner 35 Greek cheese 37 Meadow 38 Radar dot 39 Greek vowel 40 Wide smile 41 Inky stain 42 Law of "The Holiday" 43 Eye part 44 Bloke 46 Chum 47 Weep

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterday's answer 4-17

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rooney Mara, 33; Jennifer Garner, 46; Liz Phair, 51; Sean Bean, 59.

Happy Birthday: Your changing attitude will confuse the people around you. Before discussing plans that may or may not unfold, you'd be wise to do more research. Organization and planning will make a difference in what you accomplish this year. Don't underestimate someone waiting to take advantage of you. Listen carefully and plan your actions with detail and precision. Your numbers are 4, 11, 14, 20, 28, 37, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't disregard what others do or say. Size up your situation and consider your options. Learn from past mistakes and leave no room for error. If you want something, be willing to work for it. Know your boundaries and limitations.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Opportunity knocks. Don't sit back when you should be doing everything in your power to get things done. Take a unique path if it will result in higher returns. Open up to someone you love to improve your relationship.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll thrive on change and taking on new challenges. Don't underestimate the extent of a job, or you may end up falling short of the expectations you set. You are better off doing less and adding more details.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your generosity will send a message to someone special. Nurture relationships and make plans that will bring you closer to the people you

enjoy being around most. Opportunities to expand your family or circle of friends look promising.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't leave anything to chance when it comes to work and money. A responsible attitude will help you bring about changes that will make you look good. A personal incident should not be allowed to hinder your efficiency.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Business trips, educational pursuits and networking functions are favored. Your involvement will help you figure out the latest trends and set new goals that will help you keep up with technology or research in your chosen field. A partnership will intrigue you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Look for opportunities that will encourage you to take on a new challenge or pick up skills that fit the current economic trends. Take care of personal money and domestic matters that can affect your lifestyle or an important relationship.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Examine alternative ways to deal with matters that put you in charge of other people's affairs. A creative approach to your relationship with an older family member will help you avoid cleaning up a messy situation. Discuss family matters openly.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Put more into your job and how you earn your living. Look for a way to make your money stretch and to use your space to create a less extravagant lifestyle. Adopt changes that promote a healthier environment.

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Stick close to immediate family, and be careful when dealing with outsiders. You'll be given poor information or limited support and should be prepared to do your own research. Opportunity comes to those who are willing to do the legwork.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Emotional troubles will surface when dealing with peers, a friend or relative. Choose your gestures carefully, or someone will misinterpret the signal you are trying to send. You don't want to be accused of a slight you never intended.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Memories will encourage you to attend a reunion or to connect with someone you haven't seen in ages. A personal contract can be adjusted or updated to better suit your current situation.

Birthday Baby: You are steadfast, eager and ambitious. You are practical and judicious.

(To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit EugeniaLast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.)

SUDOKU Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

Difficulty Level ★★

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

SOLAR NAILS Solution: 10 letters

N M N O L A S C I T E M S O C O A G A R T R W H I T E P S P I N I E T L E F T P R R R A A T I S C L U S I G S I E I H L I C E U I B R R N C Y N S P M S U D N D N A A E A T U K I O R S C O I H R L P R Y S H N P E L C I T U C U B P N C C D M L I B S T E Q E D O I U R I O K A O S P E C I T L H L A S C S N E D R A H A L I S P C C E H P O W D E R T S S M T K O L A C R Y L I C K S H D E A L B P C O L O R F U L E O R R O D E D N U O R L E B E A W Y R

©2012 Arcs and M/Vee Syndication www.wonderword.com 4/17

Acetone, Acrylic, Aesthetic, Almond, Art, Base, Bed, Brush, Chip, Clippers, Colorful, Composition, Cosmetic, Crack, Cuticle, Design, Discolor, Dry, Dull, Durable, Harden, Layers, Length, Liquid, Manicure, Nails, Natural, Paint, Pink, Polish, Powder, Price, Resin, Rounded, Salon, Sculpt, Shape, Shiny, Show, Soak, Sparkle, Technician, Timer, Tips, White

Yesterday's Answer: Worldwide

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 38 through 52, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CLASSIFIED ADS



EMPLOYMENT


Looking to hire an Assistant Dental Lab Technician. We are willing to train the right person. Must be dependable, detail oriented, and have excellent time management skills. This full time position has benefits including: retirement 401K, health insurance, PTO, paid holidays, and uniform allowance. For more information, please email, office-manager@saipansdadental.com.

CEMENT LABORER

Cement handling equipment experience preferred.
Will train motivated individuals.
Wages - \$8.25 per hour

Apply in person at
Hanson Micronesia,
Cement Inc.
Tel: 670 322-3333

CLICK IT OR TICKET DAY&NIGHT



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP18-DPW/SWMD-077

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 10, 2018 TIME: 10:00 A.M.
**"SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE DEPARTMENT
OF PUBLIC WORKS, SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.


QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT CAN BE MADE TO MR. ENRIQUE DELA CRUZ, DIRECTOR, BY EMAIL AT dpwrecycle@yahoo.com NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M., THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, APRIL 30, 2018. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROSPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-303-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S



Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper for more news, value and information. Please call 235-NEWS.



Securing Your World

HIRING NOW SIGN-ON BONUS OF UP TO \$300!

Join the G4S team where our Values of Integrity, Respect, Safety, Security, Service Excellence, Innovation and Teamwork are the foundation of how we operate. We are seeking candidates to fill the following positions:

- **Security Officers**
Protect customer's interests & conduct numerous security patrols of industrial, commercial & residential locations
- **Lifeguards**
Ensure the safety of individuals at the designated G4S customer's pool and/or beaches

If you are hired for any of the positions above, you will receive a \$150 Sign-On Bonus. After 3 months of successfully working for G4S, you will receive another \$150.00!

Applicant qualifications are: be a high school graduate; for Lifeguards – must possess an updated Lifeguard Certification for pool and open water.

Competitive salary and benefits available! Hurry now as this offer is for a limited time only. To be eligible, you must be hired between April 01 and May 31, 2018.

Please submit resumes to: hr@gu.g4s.com

Apply in person at the G4S CNMI Office located in

Ladera Center Beach Road San Jose

www.g4squam.com

G4S is an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Employer

WHATZIT Solution: Home is where the heart is

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as \$30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$30
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



www.facebook.com/dingbatgames

Find today's solution in classified section

share the power
of a wishSM



**"I want to be a
firefighter!"**

BJ Belacora, 6 yrs.

Visit us at:
Make-A-Wish Guam
590 South Marine Corps Drive.
ITC Bldg, Suite 109
Tamuning, GU 9691303507
Tel: (670) 483-9474
Email: info@guam.wish.org
www.guam.wish.org

Helps Achieve!
Saipan Tribune



NMPASI

NORTHERN MARIANAS PROTECTION & ADVOCACY SYSTEMS, INC.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION: CLIENT ADVOCATE
PAY-LEVEL: P.L. 22 / STEP 1-10 (\$26,665 - \$41, 367)
REPORTS TO: PROGRAM MANAGER

OVERVIEW:

This is a non-exempt position for non-legal advocacy on behalf of clients with disabilities primarily on Saipan and should participate in general outreach activities in the community. The Client Advocate reports to the Program Manager and works within prescribed NMPASI standards, policies and procedures with some latitude for independent action.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- ✓ An Associates Degree (A.A. or A.S.) in any related field or no less than 60 credit hours from a post secondary school; and
- ✓ Two (2) years of experience that demonstrates a thorough understanding of the principles and practices of the work in protection and advocacy systems or other related fields.

HOW TO APPLY:

Interested applicants may pick up a complete job description and application forms at the NMPASI office located on middle road approximately 100 yards north of the Gualo Rai traffic light intersection. Completed application packets must be submitted to the NMPASI Executive Director at the NMPASI Office. In order for applications to be considered they must include (1) a Cover Letter, (2) a Resumé, (3) Completed Application forms. Incomplete applications and/or applications which do not demonstrate that the applicant meets minimum qualifications as listed above or do not meet the deadline for submittal will not be considered. For further information, please feel free to contact Mr. James Rayphand at (670) 235-7273/4 [voice] / 235-7278[tty] or email at jrayphand@nmpasi.org. NMPASI is an EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER. DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION SUBMISSION WILL BE ON APRIL 27, 2018 AT 5PM.

NMPASI IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

PLACE YOUR ADVERT HERE!
For opportunities contact us at 235-6397

Colon perfect into 8th inning, Rangers beat Astros



HOUSTON

(AP)—Bartolo Colon carried a perfect game into the eighth inning and Robinson Chirinos drove in all three runs for the Texas Rangers during their 3-1 victory over the Houston Astros in 10 innings Sunday night.

The 44-year-old Colon turned back the clock and dominated the defending World Series champions for seven innings, retiring his first 21 batters in an entertaining pitchers' duel with Astros ace Justin Verlander.

Colon walked Carlos Correa to start the eighth before Josh Reddick lined an 0-2 delivery down the right-field line for a double that put runners at second and third, spoiling the no-hit bid as well.

Opposing fans in Houston gave Colon a standing ovation. Two outs later, he was pulled with the score tied at 1.

Chirinos homered in the third for the only hit off Verlander, who struck out 11 over eight innings.

In the 10th, Chirinos launched a two-run double off Hector Rondon (1-1) that short-hopped the wall in straightaway center field. Jake Diekman pitched out of trouble in the bottom half for his first save.

Keone Kela (2-0) tossed a scoreless ninth for the win.

Red Sox 3, Orioles 1

In Boston, Andrew Benintendi got three hits and Boston extended the best start in its 118-year history by beating Baltimore at frigid Fenway Park.

Mitch Moreland also had three hits for the Red Sox, who completed a three-game sweep of the shortened series and improved to a major league-best 13-2 under new manager Alex Cora.

The series was supposed to last four games, but the traditional Patriots' Day game scheduled for Monday morning at 11:05 a.m. was postponed late Sunday afternoon because of a forecast that calls for heavy rain throughout the day.

The game will be made up May 17. It is the first time the Patriots' Day game in Boston has been postponed since 1984.

Phillies 10, Rays 4

In St. Petersburg, Aaron Altherr hit a three-run homer, Scott Kingery had a three-run double and Philadelphia won its sixth in a row.

Kingery's two-out drive off the center field wall capped a four-run burst in the third inning that put Philadelphia ahead 4-2. The rookie has 12 RBI over his past eight games.

Philadelphia took a commanding 10-3 advantage dur-



Texas Rangers' starting pitcher Bartolo Colon throws against the Houston Astros during the first inning of a baseball game Sunday, April 15, 2018, in Houston.

ing a five-run eighth when Maikel Franco hit a two-run single and Altherr homered off Andrew Kittredge.

Reliever Yackel Rios (2-0) went 1 1/3 scoreless innings.

Denard Span homered and had two RBI for the Rays, who have lost six straight at home.

Mets 3, Brewers 2

In New York, Wilmer Flores hit a game-winning home run with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning and New York beat Milwaukee to improve the best start in team history to 12-2.

Noah Syndergaard struck out eight batters in a row, two shy of Tom Seaver's major league record, and Brandon Nimmo finished a double shy of the cycle. Nimmo connected for a tying home run against Taylor Williams leading off the sixth on a cold, blustery afternoon at Citi Field.

Flores broke a 2-all tie with a drive over the left-center wall against Matt Albers (2-1) for his second home run this

year. New York has opened a season with five straight series wins for the first time.

Rockies 6, Nationals 5

In Washington, Ian Desmond hit a tiebreaking, two-out homer in the ninth inning against his former team, Charlie Blackmon drove in three runs and Colorado rallied to beat Washington.

After Sean Doolittle (0-1) struck out Carlos Gonzalez and Gerardo Parra to open the ninth, Desmond sent a belt-high, 3-2 fastball over the 402-foot sign in straightaway center as Colorado took three out of four in its only visit to Washington.

Adam Ottavino (3-0) got the win despite allowing a run in the eighth.

Pirates 7, Marlins 3

In Miami, Starling Marte went 5 for 5 with a ninth-inning homer to help Pittsburgh beat Miami.

Marte's five hits were a career high, and his average rose

from .241 to .305. He scored four times and hit his third homer off Junichi Tazawa.

The surprising Pirates (11-4) improved to 7-0 in day games, completed a 4-2 trip and head home atop the NL Central.

Ivan Nova (2-1) recovered from a wobbly start to pitch 6 2/3 innings. He allowed three runs and struck out nine, his highest total since 2016.

Cardinals 3, Reds 2

In Cincinnati, Carlos Martinez struck out a season-high 11 batters in seven shutout innings and Harrison Bader's two-run home run helped St. Louis complete its first four-game sweep in Cincinnati since 1949.

Martinez (2-1) allowed two hits and four walks while helping send the Reds to their eighth consecutive loss, one short of matching their longest losing streak of last season.

The Reds scored 10 runs in the series while being swept in four games at home by St. Louis for the first time since

July 8-10, 1949.

The Reds haven't enjoyed a lead in 32 innings, going back to the fourth inning on Thursday. They are 2-13 for the first time since the 1931 Reds won two of their first 19 games.

Bud Norris allowed Adam Duvall's ninth-inning leadoff homer and the Reds got a runner to second with nobody out. Norris struck out Alex Blandino and Phillip Ervin and got Billy Hamilton to line out to clinch his third save.

Athletics 2, Mariners 1

In Seattle, Sean Manaea pitched seven strong innings and Jed Lowrie hit an early two-run homer off Felix Hernandez to lead Oakland over Seattle.

Oakland avoided a series sweep as Manaea (2-2) gave up just two hits and struck out four. It was the third time in four starts this season he has lasted at least seven innings.

Lowrie provided all the offense the A's needed with his fourth homer in the first inning. Blake Treinen finished with a four-out save.

Taylor Motter homered for the Mariners, who had won four in a row.

Felix Hernandez (2-2) worked into the seventh inning for the first time this year, giving up five hits in 6 1/3 innings.

Dodgers 7, Diamondbacks 2

In Los Angeles, Al Clayton Kershaw struck out 12 and pitched two-hit ball over sev-

en innings and Los Angeles Dodgers ended an 11-game losing streak against Arizona in the regular season.

Los Angeles had been 0-5 versus the Diamondbacks this year, and hadn't beaten them in the regular season since last August. But the Dodgers swept Arizona 3-0 last year in the NL Division Series.

Chris Taylor homered, doubled and drove in three runs to help the Dodgers stop a three-game skid. The Diamondbacks, who had won three in row, finished a 6-3 road trip.

Kershaw (1-2) gave up one run, on Paul Goldschmidt's leadoff homer in the seventh, and has a 1.73 ERA after four starts. The Dodgers totaled just three runs in three previous starts this season by their ace lefty.

Padres 10, Giants 1

In San Diego, Joey Lucchesi struck out nine in six innings, fellow rookie Christian Villanueva homered, doubled and drove in three runs, and San Diego cruised past San Francisco 10-1.

Jose Pirela was a home run short of the cycle and had three RBI for the Padres, who have won five of seven. The Giants have lost four of five.

Lucchesi (2-0) was sharp in outpitching Tyler Beede (0-1) in a matchup of 24-year-old rookies. Lucchesi walked none and his nine strikeouts were his most in four big league starts. The lefty allowed one run and five hits.

Gronkowski to miss start of Patriots' offseason program



NEW ENGLAND

(AP)—It may take a little while longer before we get clarity regarding Rob Gronkowski's relationship with the New England Patriots. When the team begins its offseason program Monday, Gronkowski is not expected to be in attendance.

Gronkowski is still reportedly considering whether he'll play in the 2018 season, but has had "good communication" with the team.

Monday's offseason workouts are voluntary. There is, however, some financial incentive for Gronkowski to show up. Gronkowski has a \$250,000 bonus in his contract depending on how many offseason workouts he attends.

It's worth noting that quarterback Tom Brady is also not expected to show up for the team's first offseason workout either. He's currently on a "business trip" in

Qatar, according to Scheffter.

Gronkowski's absence from the offseason program adds to his strange offseason. The 28-year-old tight end has been secretive about whether he's going to play next season, and stories about possible friction between Gronkowski and head coach Bill Belichick have only added to that uncertainty.

Belichick didn't seem too worried about the absence of Gronkowski or Brady, noting that players miss the offseason program due to prior commitments every season.

Gronkowski turned in yet another strong year with the Patriots in 2017. He caught 69 passes for 1,084 yards and eight touchdowns in the regular season. He was also a force in the playoffs, catching three scores in three games.

Gronkowski is under contract with the Patriots through 2019. He's set to receive around \$9 million if he returns to play in 2018.

Pacers stun LeBron, Cavaliers in series opener



CLEVELAND
(AP)—LeBron James figured he had experienced everything in 12 postseasons.

Turns out, there was something new.

Victor Oladipo scored 32 points and Indiana outplayed Cleveland from the start while pulling off a stunning 98-80 victory Sunday in the series opener, handing James and the Cavaliers' their first loss in the opening round in eight years.

It also was the first playoff-opening loss for James, who came in 12-0 in Game 1s and didn't realize he had been perfect starting the postseason.

"Is it?" James said. "I've never lost a game in the first round before in my career?"

But while he knows the narrative before Wednesday's Game 2 will be on the struggles of Cleveland's playoff newcomers, James isn't worried.

"I'm down 0-1 in the first round," he said. "I was down 3-1 in the Finals. So, I'm the last guy to ask about how you're going to feel the next couple days."

The Pacers are feeling confident after beating the Cavs for fourth time this season.

Indiana took control from the outset, opening a 21-point lead in the first quarter and pushing it to 23 in the third. The Cavs got within seven in the fourth, but Oladipo, once a role player who has blossomed into an All-Star in his first season with Indiana, hit a big 3-pointer and Bojan Bogdanovic helped put Cleveland away with a 3 to make it 88-71.

When the final horn sounded, the Pacers didn't celebrate or run around the floor like they had accomplished anything special.

They calmly walked off, business as usual.

"We believe that we can win," Oladipo said. "We came into this game with a mentality that we wanted to attack on both ends of the floor and play the way we've been playing all year, and we did a great job of that. It's only one game, it's only Game 1."

The Pacers completely outplayed the three-time defending conference champions, whose turbulent regular season has carried over into the playoffs.

James scored 24 with 12 assists and 10 rebounds for his 20th career triple-double. But James got little help as Cleveland's four other starters—Kevin Love, Jeff Green, Rodney Hood and George Hill -- combined for 25 points.

"They were more aggressive," James said. "They just played inspired basketball and they just took advantage of everything we wanted to try and



Indiana Pacers' Victor Oladipo, left, passes against Cleveland Cavaliers' Kevin Love in the second half of Game 1 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series, Sunday, April 15, 2018, in Cleveland.

But he said he must do a better job the defensive end against Horford going forward.

"He knows what he's doing down there," Antetokounmpo said. "Hopefully in Game 2 I won't play on my heels and I'll play more on my toes and be able to defend without fouling."

Rockets 104, Timberwolves 101

In Houston, James Harden scored 44 points and powered a big fourth-quarter run that allowed Houston to outlast Minnesota in Game 1 of the first-round playoff series.

Minnesota scored four straight points to get within 3 with about 30 seconds left. Chris Paul added two free throws after that for Houston, but a tip-in by Karl-Anthony Towns got Minnesota back within 3. After a bad pass by Paul gave Minnesota a chance to tie with 1.5 seconds left, Jimmy Butler's shot was short.

The top-seeded Rockets had their hands full with the No. 8 Timberwolves on a night where Houston made just 10 of 37 3-pointers. Harden made 7 of 12 3-pointers, but Trevor Ariza, P.J. Tucker, Eric Gordon and Paul combined to make just 3 of their 22 tries.

Houston kept All-Star big man Towns in check, limiting him to just eight points. Andrew Wiggins scored 18 points to lead Minnesota.

Game 2 is Wednesday night in Houston.

Thunder 116, Jazz 108

In Oklahoma City, Paul George scored 36 points to help Oklahoma City beat Utah in Game 1 of the Western Conference series.

George set an Oklahoma City playoff record with eight 3-pointers, blowing past the previous record of five. He made 8 of 11 shots from long range, and 13 of 20 shots overall. It was his first playoff game with the Thunder since being acquired in a trade with Indiana in the offseason.

Russell Westbrook had 29 points, 13 rebounds and eight assists, and Carmelo Anthony added 15 points for the Thunder. Jazz rookie Donovan Mitchell had 27 points and 10 rebounds, but he left in the second half with left foot soreness. He returned in the fourth quarter but was noticeably hobbling.

Game 2 is Wednesday night in Oklahoma City.

Leonard expected to miss remainder of postseason

San Antonio Spurs star Kawhi Leonard is expected to miss the remainder of the postseason as he continues to rehabilitate his right quadriceps injury, league sources said.

Leonard has been rehabbing in New York because that is where his medical staff is located, and he has not been cleared by his doctors, league sources said. Time has run short for Leonard—one of the league's best players when healthy—to make a

sensible return to the Spurs, who lost Game 1 of their first-round series to the Golden State Warriors on Saturday. Leonard has made strides recently in training and is focused on regaining his full health, league sources

Leonard's rehab program in New York has been in collaboration and with the approval of the Spurs' medical staff, league sources said.

Warriors head coach Steve Kerr told reporters on

Thursday that his team did not expect Leonard to play in the series.

Leonard—the 2013-14 NBA Finals MVP—missed the first 27 games of the season with the quadriceps injury and returned on a limited basis Dec. 12, playing nine games over the next month. He last played 29 minutes on Jan. 13 and hasn't returned to the court since.

Leonard averaged 25.5 points, 5.8 rebounds, 3.5 as-

sists and 1.8 steals per game last season and cemented himself as one of the league's best players. The two-time All-Star and two-time Defensive Player of the Year is in his seventh season with the Spurs after being drafted No. 15 overall in 2011. He led the Spurs to the 2014 NBA title over the Miami Heat.

The Spurs finished the season 47-35 to earn the seventh seed in the Western Conference.

do. They were more physical than us at the point of attack, and they were most precise with what they wanted to do and we couldn't score the ball."

Cleveland went just 8 of 34 on 3-pointers and missed eight of 20 free throws.

The Cavs' playoff theme is: "Whatever It Takes."

Well, it's now going to take a first-round comeback.

This is all new to James, who had won 21 consecutive first-round games and lost a postseason for the first time in his 13th playoffs. The 33-year-old is trying to get to his eighth straight Finals, and already the path is tougher than imagined. Cleveland had won 14 straight first-round games, last losing on April 22, 2010, the last sea-

son of James' first stint with the Cavs.

Indiana was swept by Cleveland in last year's opening round. Those Pacers, though, didn't have Oladipo or the balance of this Indy squad, which may lack experience but not confidence.

Lance Stephenson, a long-time playoff nemesis for James, helped set the tone in the first quarter with a dunk he punctuated by throwing several punches into the padded basket stanchion

Celtics 113, Bucks 107, OT

In Boston, Celtics coach Brad Stevens loves the postseason because it offers a chance to "bust narratives."

The Celtics took their first step toward shattering the belief they can't win without their biggest stars.

Al Horford had 24 points and 12 rebounds and Boston overcame Khris Middleton's long 3 that beat the fourth-quarter buzzer, topping the Milwaukee Bucks in overtime Sunday.

The Celtics led 99-96 with 0.5 seconds left in regulation when Middleton took an inbound pass on the far right wing and hit a contested 35-footer. Boston outscored Milwaukee 14-8 in the extra period.

Terry Rozier added 23 points, four rebounds and three assists for Boston in his first career playoff start. Jaylen Brown finished with 20 points.

Rookie Jayson Tatum added 19 points and 10 rebounds.

Rozier said he knows he's under a spotlight this postseason with Kyrie Irving out for the season following his recent knee surgery.

"I just know I gotta step up," he said. "I know I gotta fill big shoes. I don't feel no pressure. I'm glad to be in this position."

Game 2 in the best-of-seven series is Tuesday night in Boston.

Giannis Antetokounmpo led the Bucks with 35 points, 13 rebounds and seven assists before fouling out in overtime. Middleton had 31 points, eight rebounds and six assists. Malcolm Brogdon scored all 16 of his points after halftime.

After a muted start, things opened for Antetokounmpo.

NMI BJJ team eyes medals in Guam

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The seven members of the CNMI Brazilian Jiu-jitsu Team are in high spirits and looking forward to bringing home medals of any color as they participate in the 2018 Marianas Open BJJ Tournament on April 22 in Guam.

TrenchTech Gym owner and promoter Cuki Alvarez will be competing as a brown belt, while BJJ professor Clinton Dela Cruz is the lone black belter on the team that also has Kier Agda (white belt), Ken Tanzawa (purple belt), and blue belters Paulo Sangalang, Giovanni Taitingfong, and Jeff Garcia as members.

Alvarez said they expect the competition to be stiff as they are going up against the best grapplers and submission fighters in one of Guam's premier BJJ tournaments.

"Our team had trained hard and we are confident that we will be competitive. We know we are going up against tough and experienced competitors,



but that motivates us more. Our goal is to medal in our respective divisions," said Alvarez.

"We're very excited and in high spirits. The fellowship and camaraderie within our team have grown tremen-

dously the past few months. And since this is our first time traveling together to compete in a BJJ tournament, it's something that we are looking forward to," he added.

This is not the first time that

the CNMI competed in the same tournament, as several fighters from the Commonwealth have joined the event individually.

"There have been a few independent competitors from

Saipan in the past, mostly individuals. This, however, will be the largest, competing as a team and in all belt divisions,"

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cuki Alvarez, center, and Brazilian Jiu-jitsu professor Clinton Dela Cruz, third left, will be leading Team CNMI in the 2018 Marianas Open BJJ Tournament on April 22 in Guam. From left, Kier Agda, Ken Tanzawa, Paulo Sangalang, Giovanni Taitingfong, and Jeff Garcia are the other members of the team.

said Alvarez.

Alvarez, who last month asked for support from the community, thanked all the businesses and individuals that responded to help fund their trip: MARPAL, Team Crank Industries, crankeffect.com, Hertz, and an anonymous donor.

Alvarez, who won a gold medal in the Masters 37-Up purple belt absolute gi division in the 10th Copa de Marianas Brazilian Jiu-jitsu Tournament in Guam, will be leaving Saipan on Thursday, while the rest of the team will follow him on Friday.

Qatar wants FIFA talks on logistics of a 48-team World Cup

DOHA (AP)—Qatar wants talks with FIFA to discuss the feasibility of increasing the 2022 World Cup to 48 teams after soccer's governing body expressed interest in enlarging a tournament already having to overcome operational challenges.

The Gulf nation took two days to publicly respond to calls on Thursday from South American football nations to fast-track the jump from 32 to 48 teams at World Cups by four years.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino, who has already secured approval for World Cup expansion from 2026, has said he is receptive to the COMBEOL request while

acknowledging a feasibility study was required.

Qatar's infrastructure, which is being rapidly developed to cope with the World Cup, will already be stretched by the requirements of staging the Middle East's first World Cup. Enlarging the tournament would see the number of games rise from 64 to 80.

"Before any decision is taken it is important that discussions are held on the operations and logistics of an increase in size of the tournament in Qatar," the Qatar World Cup organizing committee said in a statement to The Associated



Press on Saturday. "Regardless of the outcome, we are confident in our ability to deliver a successful World Cup in 2022."

The tiny desert nation has only eight stadiums planned for the event and expanding the tournament might work only if the additional games are shared in the region.

The tournament is already due to operate on a tight 28-day schedule to minimize the disruption caused to the European season. Rather being staged in the usual June-July slot, the 2022 World Cup was shifted by FIFA to November-

December because of the extreme summer heat.

Preparations for the event are being disrupted by the ongoing boycott by neighbors, including Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, who severed diplomatic and travel links with Qatar in June 2017.

Kuwait, which retains ties with Qatar, would be a possible option to take on the burden of additional World Cup matches. But bringing another nation into the hosting, or requiring Qatar to build more stadiums, could increase the human rights scrutiny that has dogged it since winning the FIFA vote in 2010.

SIS

From Page 28

23, 25-23.

The pair of wins against GCA allowed SIS to sustain its strong start in the league this season. SIS' girls and boys division teams each notched a pair of wins in the opening week of the competition.

Against Marianas Baptist Academy last Tuesday in the boys division match, SIS

stunned the defending champion after registering a 25-22, 25-19 triumph. Then in the girls division game, the Lady Geckos, who placed runner-up to Mt. Carmel School last season, also won after only two sets against MCS 2, 25-21, 25-17.

After earning two victories at their home court, SIS visited Agape Christian School in Middle Road last Thursday and picked up where it left off, bagging two more wins

against the Torchbearers.

In the girls division, SIS eased past Agape, 25-10, 25-17, while the visiting team's boys crew also took two sets to beat the hosts, 25-17, 25-13.

Meanwhile, this season's competition also features high teams from Marianas High School, Kagman High School, and Saipan Southern High School.

Mt. Carmel School, which placed second to MBA in the boys division, was scheduled

MHS its only loss in the tournament last Saturday and prevail in the most important game in the competition.

Louisa Han led Mt. Carmel's upset against the Lady Dolphins in the finals after scoring 12 points. Tawnie Manibusan added 9 markers, while Quincy

Chinen finished with 8.

Mt. Carmel enjoyed a 15-6 spread at the half as they capitalized on MHS' sloppy plays.

The Lady Dolphins got their second wind in the final half, but Manibusan and Chinen buried timely shots to keep the Cathy Toves-mentored Lady

Knights out of trouble.

Annalei Santos paced MHS with her 8 points while Sharmaine Francisco chipped in 7. Halle Kenty, Winneb Echavez, and Ashanti Peredo combined for 9 points for the Preston Basa-coached Lady Dolphins.

SOUTHERN

From Page 28

BOYS U18 DIVISION MP United 5, TanHoldings 0

MP United triumphed, too in the boys U18 division after shutting down TanHoldings in a make-up game last Friday at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

With the victory, MP United boosted its title bid in the age group, as the team is now on top of the team standings. MP United improved to a 5-1-0 win-draw-loss record, while TanHoldings dropped to second with its 4-1-1 mark.

Oliver Fajardo and Sunjoon Tenorio scored two goals apiece to hand MP United the easy win, while Dai Podziewski tallied the other goal for the solo leader. Podziewski found

the back of the net in the sixth minute, while Fajardo delivered his pair in the 38th and 68th, and Tenorio did the same in the 63rd and 72nd minute.

MP United has two games left (against Matansa this Saturday and versus TanHoldings on March 28) and a sweep will hand the squad the division crown this season.

Kanoa 5, Matansa 2

Kanoa moved up to third place after beating Matansa.

Kanoa now has a 3-0-4 record, dislodging Matansa at the No. 3 spot, as the latter fell to a 2-2-2.

Andruw Omelau towed Kanoa to its third victory after firing four goals, while Jhoey Noble made the other goal for the winning squad. Joshua De Leon registered both goals for Matansa.

BEARS

From Page 27

with a run and two RBIs, while Kolby Kaipat scored a run and had an RBI triple in the Falcons' six-run inning at the top of the first for his lone hit in three at bats. Ian Norita also drove in two runs and scored twice on a 2-for-6 batting.

Jared Camacho scored twice for the Indians, while Robert Tudela and Jesse Sablan added a run each.

The Falcons' bullpen—composed of starter Joe Pangelinan, reliever K.K. Kainoa, and closer Peter Lieto—held the Indians, who remained winless after seven games, to 4-for-33 batting.

Bears 13, Outlaws 3

A.J. Lizama belted his second

home run of the season, while cousin Jose Lizama Jr. retired four as a closer in the Bears' 10-run win over the Outlaws last Thursday.

It was the Bears' fifth straight win since losing to the Aces on March 9, 14-4, while the Outlaws absorbed their seventh loss in as many games.

A.J. Lizama went 3-for-4 with a two-run dinger in the Bears' eight-run barrage at the bottom of the second inning. He had three RBIs and four runs, while Shakobe Rangamar drove in two runs, including an RBI triple in the third for his lone hit in four at bats.

Dennis Cabrera was tagged with the loss for the Outlaws after giving up 11 runs—including A.J.'s two-run homer—on six hits while striking out three and walking two.

LADY

From Page 28

for the visiting team's lone win in the tournament.

At the end of the eliminations, the Top 2 teams advanced to the finals with Mt. Carmel managing to hand

25 complete races in Rota Coffee Marathon

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Twenty-five runners got a taste of a hilly course and a warm welcome from the hosts during last Saturday's Inaugural Rota Coffee Marathon.

"Though there are a lot of hills, Rota has a nice run course. The people are very welcoming, waving at every runner passing by. The drivers are always giving way to the runners," said Saipan's Rommel Buenaflor, who competed in the full marathon and placed fourth overall among the nine finishers and third in the men's division of the 42K race.

Buenaflor timed in at 4:23:37 in the race that started and ended at the Rota Resort & Country Club in Sinapalo with runners also cruising along Songsong and passing through Japanese-administrative era coffee plantations. The Rota event was his third full marathon in about two months, as he also joined the



Saipan's Rommel Buenaflor celebrates his finish in last Saturday's Inaugural Rota Coffee Marathon.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Marathon (4:00:55) in March and in United Airlines Guam Marathon (4:07:00) early this month.

Finishing ahead of Buenaflor and completing the Top 3 were Japanese Koichi Shimazaki (3:10:16) Masayuki Ebina

(4:16:03). Another Japanese runner, Nansuko Ishikawa (3:24:45), won the women's race, while other finishers were her compatriots Daiki Jikuhara (5:13:12), Teishi Kishii (5:36:12), and Tomonori Igaki (5:49:01), Saipan's Daniel

Calvo (5:13:12), and Rota's John Mendiola (5:13:12).

In the half marathon race, Saipan's Raymund Tolentino led the finishers after checking in at 2:15:04. Lone female finisher Elena Gersonde of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan was ranked second

overall as she completed the 21K run in 2:23:11. Another Saipan bet, Floro Derexes, finished third with a time of 2:49:17, while Rota's Deron Mendiola came in at fourth after submitting 3:12:47.

In the 10K event, Saipan swept the men's and women's divisions with Kosuke Sato posting the best time overall after logging 51:50. His wife, Chiharu Sato, topped the women's field after completing the course in under one hour, too (59:32).

Rota's Daniel Depalog and Romeo Adriatico registered 59:00 and 1:04:33, respectively, to join Kosuke in the podium, while Jessel Candia (1:48:48) and Loreville Clitar (1:48:51), also from the host island, rounded out the Top 3 in the women's division.

Completing the 10K finishers in the event that was organized by Marianas Visitors Authority and KFC Triathlon Club Japan were Saipan's Ravenal Valencia (1:04:46), Ricky Castro (1:10:49), and Ambet Omampo (1:32:43) and Rota's Alysha Maratita (1:48:52), Mercedes Adriatico (1:50:41), and Agida Quitugua (2:11:00).

Falcons, Little Legals race for Majors pennant

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Talaabwogh Falcons and the Kagman Little Legals are in a tight race for the Majors division pennant in the 2018 Saipan Little League Baseball.

Both teams are undefeated in six games and will collide in a much-awaited match this Sunday. The Falcons won against the Natibu Sports Association Braves, the Bridge Capital Pirates, the Twins, McDonald's, and Bank of Saipan. The Little Legals scored wins over the Pirates, McDonald's, Cubs, Twins, Comets, and Braves.

The Legals were aiming for their seventh straight win last Sunday as they were supposed to play against Bank of Saipan, however heavy rains canceled all games, including in the Minor and Junior divisions. Regardless of the results of their

anticipated duel this weekend, both the Falcons and Legals are already assured of playoffs berths and the only thing left to be settled is who wins the pennant and who ends up in second place.

Cardi Borja, G-Boy Pangelinan, and Gunner Sablan are three of the reasons the Little Legals are tied on top with the Falcons, as they are among the batting and pitching leaders based on the latest statistics released by the Saipan Little League last April 2.

Borja is the top batter with a .693 average, followed by Pangelinan's .625, while Sablan is at .444 with the latter leading the league in pitching, as he has yet to be charged with an earned run in 13 innings pitched. Pangelinan has a 1.00 ERA in six innings.

The three Little Legals players also figured prominently

in other individual stats—runs scored, doubles, triples, RBIs and home run with Pangelinan joining the Pirates' Charlie McDonald and Deandrey Cruz, and the Falcons' Noah Agumon on the list of players that have scored a homer this season.

Sablan, on the other hand, has 35 strikeouts for second place behind the 43 of the Braves' Jylon Sablan.

Meanwhile, the Falcons' Chris Pangelinan (.500) and Agumon (.474) are also on the batting leaders list with the latter joining Christopher Gonzales in the pitching rankings. Gonzales has a 0.85 ERA for third, while Agumon has 2.96 ERA for eighth place, and the former also had 24 strikeouts behind the 25 of McDonald's Dylan Santos. Patty Mendiola had 20, while Deandrey Cruz and Isidro Lizama had 18 each.



JON PEREZ

Coaches, parents, and several players of the Kagman Little Legals enjoy the rest of last Sunday afternoon at Kilili Beach Park after their in game against Bank of Saipan in the Majors division of the 2018 Saipan Little League Baseball was canceled due to rain.

Bears, Falcons in crucial match

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Chalan Kanoa Bears aim to force a one-game playoff for the pennant against current leaders Go See Mark when they take on the Falcons tomorrow in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

GSM ended the elimination round at 8-1, while the Bears are just one win behind at 7-1, and the Falcons are at third at 6-2. The rampaging Mariners, who have won four straight games, are currently at fourth with their 5-3 record.

The remaining games in the round-robin regular season will determine the pennant winner and the complete playoff cast. The postseason could have the Top 4 teams advancing—the original format under the league rules—or the Top 8, as proposed by some managers during a meeting last week. The six best teams making it to the postseason is another format suggested with the Top 2 getting a bye and the automatic semis tickets and the next four playing in knockout matches.

The final decision on the playoff format will depend on the availability of funds, as SBL coordinator Tony Rogolifo has asked the managers and coaches to seek fi-

nancial assistance from local businesses to defray the costs of more postseason games. If additional funds won't be available, SBL will have to stick with its original format of Top 4 teams advancing into the semis, which will be a best-of-three affair. Winners of the No. 1 vs No. 4 and No. 2 against No. 3 Final Four series will then play in a race-to-three finals.

Falcons 18, Indians 4

Meanwhile, the Falcons routed the Indians in last Friday's game.

A.J. Evangelista scored four times and drove in two runs after going 3-for-6 in the Falcons' easy win. He had two triples, including an RBI-triple in the third to push their lead to 9-1.

Peter Lieto went 3-for-6

See BEARS on Page 26



JON PEREZ

The Falcons' J.J. Lifofoi, left, talks to their first baseman coach after getting on base on a fielder's choice during their game against the Indians in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League last Friday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.



Colon perfect
into 8th inning,
Rangers beat
Astros

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune Sports

Pacers stun
LeBron,
Cavaliers in
series opener

PAGE 25



28 TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 2018

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Lady Knights rule high school caging

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Mt. Carmel School defeated Marianas High School in the finals, 29-23, to top the five-team high school girls basketball tournament held over the weekend at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Saipan Southern High School, Kagman High School, and Tinian High School were the other teams that competed in the single-elimination round tournament.

The Lady Dolphins went undefeated in four games, while the Lady Knights finished second with a 3-1 slate with their only loss recorded against MHS. The Lady Rays ended up with an even 2-2 mark, followed by Tinian's 1-3 record, while Kagman was winless.

The Lady Knights scored wins over the Kagman Lady Ayuyus, 22-6; Tinian, 10-4; and the Southern Lady Rays, 20-10. Mt. Carmel lost to MHS by 7 points, 11-18. The Lady Dolphins—aside from beating the Lady Knights,

also defeated Kagman, 16-6 and eked out close wins against Tinian, 17-16, and Southern, 20-16.

The Lady Rays' twin victories were against the Lady Ayuyus, 22-6, and Tinian, 18-13, while Tinian trounced Kagman, 23-6,

See LADY on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mt. Carmel School players and coaches pose with their trophy after beating Marianas High School in the finals of last Saturday's girls high school basketball tournament at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



Southern United, MPU in semis



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Southern United Football Club player, right, dribbles away from a TanHoldings FC defender during their playoff game in the girls U16 division of the 2018 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Saturday at the Francisco M. Sablan Middle School Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Southern United Football Club and MP United took different routes to the semifinals of the girls U16 division of the 2018 NMIFA Spring Youth League.

MP United eased its way to the Final Four after crushing Paire FC, 10-2, last Saturday at the Francisco M. Sablan Middle School Field, while Southern United pulled off a 1-0 triumph over TanHoldings in the second playoff game in the division.

Stella McCallion powered MP United to the easy win af-



ter scoring four goals. She got her rhythm in the second half after making only one goal in the first. The MP United striker, who had her first goal in the 23rd minute), earned her second right in the fourth minute of the final half, while her last two were registered in the 54th and 57th.

Maury Zon Tybaco backed up McCallion, adding three goals. Tybaco drew first blood for MP United with her goal in the fourth minute, while her final two came in the 36th and 63rd. Aubrey Castro, Francesca Bucalig, and Audrey Castro contributed one field goal each, hitting the board in the eighth, 32nd, and 50th minute, respectively.

Paire got its pair of goals from Summer Manahane in the 30th and 56th minute.

Meanwhile, Marinel Joy Falalimpa brought Southern United to the semifinals after scoring the lone goal (seventh minute) in their playoff match against TanHoldings.

With the close win, Southern United arranged a duel against No. 2 seed Shirley's FC and they will battle for the second finals berth this Saturday at 2:30pm. MP United and No. 1 seed Kanoa FC will fight for the first finals ticket, also this Saturday at 1pm.

See SOUTHERN on Page 26

SIS sweeps GCA in v-ball league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Geckos turf in As Lito.

SIS swept Grace Christian Academy with the Lady

Saipan International School was perfect in yesterday's games in the high school division of the 2017-2018 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Volleyball League at the



Geckos handing the hosts the first win after prevailing in three sets, 25-16, 23-25, 15-10. In the boys divisions, SIS needed only two sets to down the Eagles, 25-

See SIS on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan International School's Malika Miyawaki tosses the ball during the third set of their game against Grace Christian Academy in the 2017-2018 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Volleyball League yesterday at the SIS court in As Lito.